

Hafa Adai!

Report: Women still underrepresented in govt. **PAGE 2**

DPS awaits OAG decision on 2 cops in 'brutality' video. **PAGE 5**

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MEN AT WORK

Renovation work on the problematic roof of the CNMI Museum has started. Updates are soon to be announced by museum director Daniel Aquino.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

240-day CW-1 extension clarified

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

A legal foreign worker in the Commonwealth, more commonly known as a CW-1 visa holder, may legally stay and continue working for up to 240 days beyond their expiration if certain conditions are met.

A statement from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which was issued in response to an inquiry made by the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP),

states that the 240-day relief given to a CW-1 visa holder is only eligible if the employer renews the CW-1 visa and is asking to continue a previ-

See CW-1 on Page 4

New flights moratorium now with USDOT

By **BEA CABRERA**
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REPORTER

A resolution adopted by the Commonwealth Ports Authority board last week to suspend new international flights into the CNMI has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C.

The CPA board submitted the resolution for approval by USDOT and the Federal Aviation Ad-

ministration.

"The resolution has already been submitted by the CPA management to the USDOT. It is now under review and we are on standby for any response from them," said CPA board member Barrie Toves.

"We don't know how quickly the USDOT will respond. But this is something urgent and should be a priority by the USDOT. The 60-day timeline is pretty short," said board member Pete Reyes.

The CPA resolution halts new international flights to the CNMI for just 60 days.

"The economy of the CNMI is growing pretty fast. We need to take a break and look at the situation. This 60-day period is an opportunity to assess the situation and make a decision. After all, it is not a permanent suspension but a temporary one," said Reyes.

The resolution, as requested by
See USDOT on Page 4

Man allegedly impersonates cop

A man allegedly confronted a group of women in a car in Garapan early Friday morning, told them to roll down their car's window and open the door, and identified himself as a police officer.

Jerry Joseph Sammy, 25, was later

arrested that same day on charges of impersonating an officer and disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's bail hearing, Sammy said he is a community officer for a Saipan lawmaker.

Superior Court Associate Judge

Joseph N. Camacho maintained the \$1,000 cash bail that was initially imposed in the arrest warrant and set the preliminary hearing for June 26 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Jamal Saleh was appointed as counsel for Sammy. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

Police said a woman called the Department of Public Safety's 911 on Friday at 5am and reported that two men aboard a blue car with license plate ACP-359 pulled over their car and one identified himself as a police officer.

The caller later told police that she parked her car near Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan while waiting for her

friends. When her two friends got into her car, they waited for awhile to decide where to go and eat.

A man, later identified as Sammy, was inside a parked car beside the woman's vehicle.

Sammy, who was the driver of the car, got down and asked the women what they were doing in the area.

See MAN on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

Donald Trump is not under federal investigation.

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ASIA

A U.S. Navy sailor said he kept diving to try to save his shipmates.

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WORLD

A vehicle hits pedestrians near a mosque in north London.

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Local

Report: Women still underrepresented in govt

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

A recent study released by Representation2020, a group that advocates for reforms in the recruitment process, voting systems, and legislative practices so that more women

would enter public office, suggests that the big picture hasn't changed much, with the federal government dominated by mostly men.

According to the gender parity index, or GPI, which rates women's electoral success at the local, state, and na-

tional levels, the 2017 report finds that women are underrepresented across the board.

Since the Northern Mariana Islands is not a state, it did not get a formal gender parity score, but the GPI Report still tracks their progress toward parity.

"Unfortunately, their progress is only marginal. The Islands have never elected a female delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives or a female governor," a statement from Representation2020 said.

Only five of the 15 seats

in the Guam legislature are filled by women. That means 67 percent of the Guam legislature is filled by men. The CNMI has Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) as the only two female House representatives and Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) as the only female senator. That means the CNMI House of Representatives is 90 percent male and the CNMI Senate is 89.9 percent male.

"In order to make progress toward achieving gender parity, the Northern Mariana Islands must elect more women to its Legislature and

to the position of governor by recruiting and encouraging female candidates," the statement adds.

"Changing rules and systems to create equality is part of the American tradition," said Representation2020 founder and director Cynthia R. Terrell. "To win gender parity in our lifetimes we must pivot to system reforms that include gender targets for political action committees and political parties so more women run, fair representation voting systems so more women win, and updated legislative practices so more women can serve and lead."



Students from the 2017 University of Guam Upward Bound Program cohort pose with senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, left, UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood, center, UOG Endowment Foundation executive director Janiece Sablan, second to the last on the right, and director of TRIO Programs Yoichi Rengil.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UOG Upward Bound wins \$2M grant

The University of Guam's TRIO-Upward Bound college preparation program has won a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to continue providing services.

According to Rowena T. Andrade, UB assistant director, the program will receive \$2 million

over the next five years.

Upward Bound currently serves over 100 high school students in Guam, primarily from the public schools.

The Upward Bound program is now accepting new student applications for the 2017-2018 school year. For

more information, contact the Upward Bound office at 735-1992/ 2245 or email rowenat@triton.uog.edu.

Upward Bound provides free academic support services for eligible students so they may graduate and enroll in a postsecondary institution.

Services include after-school tutorial services, college and career preparation activities, self-development workshops, standardized test prep, a six-week summer program at UOG, and more benefits.

UOG has hosted the UB program since 1989 for students who are first-generation college students and/ or from low-income families. (PR)



THE MAGICIAN'S APPRENTICE

Magician Leon Etienne executes a magic trick with the help of little Bryce Tudela Royal during last Friday's Lady Diann Torres Foundation Magic Show Fundraiser held at the Hyatt Sand Castle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Apatang re-appoints SHEFA board members

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang has re-appointed three board members to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance.

The terms of board members Raymond Muna, Ursula Lifofoi Aldan, and Francisco Cabrera have expired but their re-appointments mean they are headed back to the scholarship program.

Muna, Aldan, and Cabrera served a term of two years on the SHEFA board.

According to Apatang, he chose to re-appoint these members because of their outstanding performances.

Apatang has already confirmed their re-appointment and is just waiting for the required documents and the confirmation of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

The re-appointments are still subject to confirmation by delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan). The re-appointment will be voted on at the upcoming delega-

tion session.

According to Apatang, he believes in the work and qualifications of all three board members.

"I am confident that they are qualified to continue serving on the SHEFA board and that they are assets on the board," he wrote in his email.

Currently, Apatang is still awaiting documents like police clearances, drug test results, and resumes from the three.

They will serve another two years if the re-appointments are confirmed by the delegation.

Discussions on extending the relocation deadline for poker establishments to Garapan should also be continued in the upcoming delegation session.

Apatang hopes that a solution is figured out soon, whether it's extending the relocation period or if it's finding another source of funding for the SHEFA program. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

Preconception Health

Preconception health is a woman's health before she becomes pregnant. It means knowing how health conditions and risk factors could affect a woman or her unborn baby if she becomes pregnant. For example, some foods, habits, and medicines can harm your baby — even before he or she is conceived. Some health problems, such as diabetes, also can affect pregnancy.

Every woman should be thinking about her health whether or not she is planning pregnancy.

For more information regarding available Preconception Care services, please contact the Family Planning Program at 234-8950 ext. 3351.

Some things to ask during a preconception health visit:

Family planning and birth control.

Taking folic acid.

Vaccines and screenings you may need, such as a Pap test and screenings for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV.

Managing health problems, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, thyroid disease, obesity, depression, eating disorders, and asthma. Find out how pregnancy may affect, or be affected by, health problems you have.

Medicines you use, including over-the-counter, herbal, and prescription drugs and supplements.

Ways to improve your overall health, such as reaching a healthy weight, making healthy food choices, being physically active, caring for your teeth and gums, reducing stress, quitting smoking, and avoiding alcohol.

How to avoid illness.

Hazards in your workplace or home that could harm you or your baby.

Health problems that run in your or your partner's family.

Problems you have had with prior pregnancies, including preterm birth.

Family concerns that could affect your health, such as domestic violence or lack of support.

5 most important things you can do for preconception health:

- 1 Take 400 to 800 micrograms (400 to 800 mcg or 0.4 to 0.8 mg) of folic acid every day if you are planning or capable of pregnancy to lower your risk of some birth defects of the brain and spine, including spina bifida. All women need folic acid every day. Talk to your doctor about your folic acid needs. Some doctors prescribe prenatal vitamins that contain higher amounts of folic acid.
- 2 Stop smoking and drinking alcohol.
- 3 If you have a medical condition, be sure it is under control. Some conditions that can affect pregnancy or be affected by it include asthma, diabetes, oral health, obesity, or epilepsy.
- 4 Talk to your doctor about any over-the-counter and prescription medicines you are using. These include dietary or herbal supplements. Be sure your vaccinations are up to date.
- 5 Avoid contact with toxic substances or materials that could cause infection at work and at home. Stay away from chemicals and cat or rodent feces.

Information adapted from the Office on Women's Health, US Department of Health and Human Services.

"This advertisement has been brought to you by the CNMI Maternal and Child Health Bureau through funds by the US Department of Health & Human Services."

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The just concluded 29th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference on Saipan inspired Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to create a climate change resilience group in the Common-

wealth and he signed an executive directive to do just that.

With an audience full of environmentalists, Torres signed Executive Directive 2017-01, establishing the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands Resilience Working Group that will devise and

implement a long-term plan to protect the Commonwealth's environment against climate change and its impacts.

Torres said that climate change is a growing concern for every individual in the community.

"The CNMI relies on a

Island resilience group is created

clean and healthy environment for our livelihood, survival, and way of life. Our community, infrastructure, and ecosystems here in the CNMI may be adversely affected by even a small rise in sea level or changes in rainfall. We must continue to be proactive in adapting to the changes brought by climate change to protect our infrastructure, communities, and ecosystems, even as solutions to control carbon emissions are pursued," Torres stated in the directive.

The resilience group will consist of representatives of

various departments, offices, divisions, corporations, boards, and commissions of the Commonwealth government. The officials that are to be appointed for this working group would hold positions of authority in their designated offices.

Richard V. Salas will lead the working group as the CNMI climate change project coordinator.

Salas noted that the signing of the directive is timely.

"We cannot forget the fact that the Pacific region is especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to its limited adaptive capacities.

Planning for these impacts requires collaboration across many different sectors of the government, the private sector, and respective federal agencies. It is vital that we all work together to ensure that the livelihoods, the natural, and built environments can withstand the impacts of climate variability and change," Salas said.

According to Salas, once they finalize a climate change plan, it will be available to policy makers to determine the best ways to alleviate impacts. Salas assured that the devised plan would be based on the best available information.

Ex-cop Richards arrested again for using 'ice'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former police officer Florencio Q. Richards, a former participant of the District Court's Drug Offender Re-entry Program, was arrested again on Friday for allegedly using methamphetamine or "ice" more than three times over one year.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy issued the arrest warrant against Richards on Friday.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set Richards' arraignment for Wednesday at 1:30pm and possible revocation sentencing for July 3 at 1:30pm, and remanded Richards to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The U.S. Probation Office had requested to revoke Richards' supervision.

According to U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola, Richards tested presumptive positive for crystal meth during tests and admitted using "ice" on May 12 and 18 and June 3 and 5 in 2017.

Arriola said Richards also failed to follow instructions about calling in every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and failed to report as instructed to the U.S. Probation Office last June 5, 12, 13, and 14.

Arriola said Richards failed to report to a group counseling session, individual counseling

session, and a drug test last June 3.

Attorney David Banes stood as counsel for Richards. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe was counsel for the U.S. government.

In January 2016, Richards was accepted into the Drug Offender Re-entry program.

In March 2016, his term of supervised release was revoked for "ice" use. He was given an imprisonment term of time served (one day), followed by 24 months of supervised release.

In May 2016, Richards received a 14-day prison sanction as a result of drug use on three occasions.

In August 2016, he received a 12-day jail sanction for drug use and missing a counseling session.

In December 2016, he received a 14-day prison sanction as a result of his failure to report to two random drug tests and his admission to drug use.

In February 2017, Richards received a two-day jail sanction after submitting a diluted urine specimen.

In March 2017, Richards was terminated from the DORE program and received a one-month prison sanction.

Richards was ordered to return to traditional supervision upon his release.

He was released on April 21, 2017. His supervision is currently set to expire on

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'DPS spends \$2.2M for overtime

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has spent \$2.2 million just for overtime costs, an amount that House Ways and Means chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) said is way over the allocated budget for overtime.

DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero said during Monday's House Ways and Means Committee budget hearing that DPS is spending \$2.2 million in overtime—some \$2 million more than \$200,000 that's allocated for DPS overtime.

Guerrero said this is largely because DPS is understaffed. Also, investigations into cases cannot be allowed to discontinue, he added.

DPS currently has 131 employees.

Demapan, however, believes that DPS could still trim some hours from their officers' schedules and bring down the overall cost of overtime.

"That is something of a grave concern for the House of Representatives," said Demapan, adding that he requested Guerrero to look anew at the department's staffing patterns. "The staffing pattern has to be built around that—to be able to respond beyond the working hours."

He pointed out that two fiscal years ago, there was a 45-man increase in officers while the overtime expenditure



Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero shakes Rep. Frank Aguiar's (R-Saipan) hand with Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Gregorio Sablan Jr. (R-Saipan), and Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) in the background during yesterday's budget hearing.

ERWIN ENCINARES

stayed the same.

"When we appropriate funds to give new positions, it is done on the premise that overtime costs would be reduced because you have more people in the force," he said.

Demapan hopes that fiscal year 2018 goes differently for DPS because "the moment you go over the \$200,000 in overtime budget, the entire government is in deficit."

DPS received \$6 million in fiscal year 2017. This year, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has proposed to allocate \$6.6 million to the department.

DPS had proposed a budget of \$10.6 million, a proposal that Demapan looks forward to negotiating.

"The commissioner justified that it is only fitting, [due to] the developments and activities going on, as well as the

soon-to-open casino hotel," said Ways and Means vice chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

Demapan agreed with Sablan that the \$4-million variance is too much.

"If we were to give [\$4 million], it would require a massive reduction across the board in all departments and agencies. That is something we cannot do," Sablan said.

"We are going to strike a balance on how we distribute the funds for the budget."

Included in the \$4 million difference was DPS' request to expand their vehicle lineup and their plans to recruit more officers.

"Majority of the \$4 million [difference] is DPS asking for 45 more full-time employees [FTE's]," said Sablan.

Demapan recognized DPS'

need for additional vehicles, something he said the committee considers a "critical component to any police force."

"That is something that we would definitely consider, should supplemental funding become available," he said, adding that DPS has proposed \$500,000 to purchase vehicles—an amount that is included in the \$4 million difference.

Tinian's 2017 Shoreline Fishing Derby on July 3 and 4

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The 3rd Annual Shoreline Fishing Derby will take place on Tinian's Kammer Beach this July 3 and 4. The fishing competition and is open to anglers from 7 to 17 years of age.

The youth derby requires a \$5 registration fee and includes a free shirt and a banquet for both days.

The derby will award multiple prizes for multiple categories. Categories in-

clude age category, biggest catch, weight, and the variety of catches.

The age group will be split in two. There will be a category from ages 7 to 13 and another age category from 14 to 17.

Each age category will be competing for a prize in the biggest catch category, weight category, and the variety of catches made.

Prizes will range from \$25 to \$175 in each category. Five winners will be named in each

winning category.

If a participant holds the biggest catch title, his/her catch will not be weighed in for the weight category.

In an event that a tie occurs in any category, cash prizes will be cut equally.

Consumption of alcoholic beverages or uses of controlled substance are not allowed during the competition.

Any report of misconduct will immediately lead to disqualification.

Participants must abide by

the rules of this competition; failure to do so will result in disqualification.

Interested participants may pick up registration forms and waiver forms at the Tinian Municipal Council or Marianas Visitors Authority office.

Submission of waiver forms and registration forms will not be accepted after July 2, 2017.

For additional information, call the Tinian Municipal Council at 433-3470 or 287-2264 or the MVA office at 433-9365.

USDOT

From Page 1

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, was adopted on June 13, 2017, during a special CPA board meeting. It imposes a 60-day moratorium on the entry of new international airline service into the CNMI, to enable the local government to assess the capacity of the CNMI's infrastructure to accommodate the rapid increase in visitor arrivals.

At that meeting, board chair Jose Lifofoi said, "The resolution is a request to the USDOT for us to be able to suspend all new airlines flying from different directions for 60 days. I think the governor is leaving next month to discuss this in Washington and meet with the secretary of the DOT."

The FAA is within USDOT and is responsible for approving flight routes.

The USDOT and FAA's approval is a procedural process.

CW-1

From Page 1

ously approved employment; the employer files the petition before the CW-1 visa expires; and if the employer asks to extend the employee's stay in the petition.

The 240 days of continued employment is still subject to USCIS approval on a case-by-case basis.

"The 240 days of continued employment authorization does not extend a CW-1 worker's nonimmigrant status,"

said David Gulick, district director of USCIS for Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI, in the USCIS statement.

"It only allows the employee to continue working with the same employer," he clarified in the letter, adding that the 240-day authorization does not give the visa holder a nonimmigrant status but rather allows the holder to continue working for his employer while not accruing unlawful presence in the CNMI despite the expiry of the CW-1 visa.

Unlawful presence may be a

bar to future entry to the U.S.

Official statements issued to *Saipan Tribune* by Sablan's office expressed hope that the clarification will be helpful for "some people whose fiscal year 2017 CW-1 permits are expiring soon."

"The three criteria set out by USCIS must be met to continue working lawfully for the same employer for up to 240 days, or until USCIS issues a decision on a fiscal 2018 petition, whichever comes first," said the statement, adding that the 240-day rule would provide relief

to employers as well.

"I encourage employers to make an appointment at the USCIS Application Service Center to determine whether the rule applies to their particular case," concluded the statement.

For more information on the 240-day rule, visit the USCIS page on the matter at: <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/cw-1-cnmi-only-transitional-worker-temporary-relief-workers-expiring-cw-1-nonimmigrant-status>.

MAN

From Page 1

Sammy later told the woman he is a police officer and told her to roll down her window.

The woman asked for Sammy's identification card because he was not wearing a police uniform or driving a marked police car. The woman said she was scared as she smelled the odor of alcohol on Sammy. She tried to roll up the window and lock the doors, but Sammy managed to open her door.

Sammy told them that they

cannot just park wherever they want.

The woman then called 911 for police assistance as Sammy was talking to her friend. She said Sammy appeared he was going to take her friends' wallet so she picked up her phone to call 911.

When Sammy heard her talking on the phone, he walked quickly back to his car and sped off.

She said she was still on the phone talking to the 911 operator when the police found Sammy's car and pulled it over by the former Flair Bar in Garapan. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

DPS awaits OAG decision on two cops

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety only assigned to desk jobs the two police officers who were caught on video beating a habitual offender who engaged police officers in a car chase that ended in a crash.

Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero also said Friday that the result of their criminal investigation has already been forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General and that they are still waiting for an update from the OAG.

"Like everybody else, I am still waiting to see what will happen," Guerrero said, adding that it was a joint investigation by DPS and the OAG.

The commissioner said the two officers were not suspended but were given administrative duties and are not out

patrolling the streets.

"I cannot keep the police officers in limbo," Guerrero said.

He refused to divulge the identity of the two officers.

According to court documents, on Dec. 1, 2016 on Saipan, Vincent San Nicolas Norita, 32, stole a vehicle owned by Jeju Airlines. In the evening of Dec. 9, 2016, Norita drove the car at high speeds while eluding police officers, disobeying traffic signs, failing to signal, and driving with a wanton disregard to safety.

Norita drove the car at a speed of over 100 miles per hour from Chalan Laulau to Garapan, to Tanapag, back to Garapan, Chinatown, Chalan Laulau, and to Koblerville where he eventually crashed at an embankment in Koblerville in the evening of Dec. 9, 2016. The car overturned.

The 40-minute car chase

went viral after a bystander took a video of a police officer, who appeared to be hitting Norita repeatedly with a baton or stick as he lay on the ground.

Police said that Norita's

car, a white 2011 Toyota Yaris four-door sedan with license plate ADZ-841, was speeding and nearly hit several pedestrians during the pursuit.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services disclosed that upon medics' assessment at the scene, the

driver, Norita, stated he had pain on the back of his right shoulder blade.

DFEMS said Norita, who was uncooperative, also sustained three small cuts on the forehead and a half-inch cut on the left leg.

Last month, Norita pleaded

guilty to 18 traffic offenses and was slapped with the maximum sentence of nine years imprisonment.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho noted that Norita has prior convictions for robbery and burglary.

Cook arrested for allegedly selling 'ice'

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officers arrested on Friday a restaurant cook allegedly engaged in selling methamphetamine or "ice" in Garapan.

Joselito Pineda Sioco, 47, also known as Jojo, was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

yesterday for his initial appearance on charges of trafficking and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Camacho imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on Sioco and set the preliminary hearing for June 28 at 9am.

The Office of the Public Defender was appointed as coun-

sel for Sioco. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

Task force officers investigated last March 27 the drug activities in Garapan involving the man, then only known as Jojo.

A "cooperating source" managed to buy \$170 worth of "ice" from Jojo, later identified as Sioco, during a "buy-

walk" operation at his barracks in Garapan last April 4.

In a second "buy-walk" operation at Jojo's barracks last April 5, a "cooperating source" was able to purchase \$170 worth of "ice" from Sioco.

David said a field test of the seized substance was presumptive positive for crystal meth. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Guam man gets 37 months in prison for ice trafficking

Bernard J. Mendoza, 33, from Yigo, Guam, was sentenced yesterday in district court to a 37-month term of imprisonment for attempted possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute.

The court also ordered three years of supervised release following imprisonment, in addition to a mandatory \$100 assessment fee.

Federal law provides that defendants convicted of a federal drug offense may no longer qualify for certain federal benefits.

On September 19, 2016, Mendoza pleaded guilty to attempted possession of meth-

amphetamine with intent to distribute. The investigation revealed that Mendoza had over 56 grams of methamphetamine and 56 grams of marijuana shipped by FedEx from Colorado to his workplace in Guam. Forensic examination revealed that the methamphetamine was 98 percent pure.

The investigation was conducted by the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency. The case was prosecuted by Rosetta San Nicolas, an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Guam. **(USAO)**

Application period extended for LibDay float competition

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office has extended the submission date for those who want to participate in the 2017 Liberation Day float competition.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, the submission period for float competition applications has been extended to June 26.

Once all float applications are in, participants must be briefed on June 28.

As of today, nine float participants have already submitted their applications for the Liberation Day festivities that will start this Saturday, June 24.

Apatang said the confirmed marchers for the Liberation Day parade on July 4 include representatives of the Japanese community, the Chinese association, and hopefully more.

This year's parade will also be significant because the Saipan Mayor's Office and the

Office of the Governor will be joining this year's parade with their own floats.

According to Apatang, when the idea was brought up with the governor's office to join the parade and build their own float, the governors' office was extremely supportive of the idea.

"The governor has always been very supportive of our Liberation Day festivities," said Apatang.

For parade participants, floats must be lined up and ready to go from 1pm to 3pm so that the parade can start at exactly 4pm on July 4. Competition floats will be judged before the start of the parade.

The opening of the Liberation Day festival will be on Saturday, June 24, at 6pm.

As for the Liberation Day grounds preparations, the mayor's office is just finalizing all the booths and making finishing touches. Vendors should be able to decorate their booths before opening night.

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CUC warns vs PFOS in select water areas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has detected levels of perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS, in a limited area of its drinking water system.

PFOS is a human-made

substance historically used in firefighting foams at airports as well as in some commercial goods. The detected levels of PFOS exceed the EPA health advisory level of 70 parts per

trillion.

The affected area includes the villages of Chalan Laulau, Iliying, Chalan Kiya, As Terlaje, Kanat Tabla, Fina Sisu, and parts of As Lito.

CUC is advising consumers in the affected villages to avoid ingesting the water at this time and until the concentration of PFOS is below the health advisory level. Con-

sumers should not drink tap water, cook with tap water, or make ice for consumption with tap water.

"CUC is making this advisory action to help the affected population limit their lifetime exposure to this chemical," the CUC statement adds.

On May 12, 2017, CUC collected a water sample from Isley Booster Station 1 near the Saipan International Airport to monitor the concentration levels of PFOS entering the water supply. Isley Booster Station 1 receives water from wells near the airport that serve the affected area. Results received by CUC on June 5, 2017, indicated the concentration of PFOS was 120 parts per trillion, ex-

ceeding the health advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion.

To reduce the concentration of PFOS in water supplied to the affected area, CUC has removed from service two wells with elevated levels of PFOS. CUC is returning to service four wells with no detectable levels of PFOS. CUC will test the current concentration of PFOS in all the wells presently supplying water to the affected villages. CUC will also continue to monitor for these contaminants at sources surrounding the affected areas. CUC will report to BECQ and the community the results of all further testing.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page. **(PR)**



COURTESY CALL

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is flanked by members of the Marianas Kensuikai Group, which made a courtesy call on the governor yesterday. The group is on Saipan as part of their annual pilgrimage to pray for peace in the region and the world. This trip is a pilgrimage, which, according to the group, has gone on for nearly 50 years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres shares a conversation with the Marianas Kensuikai Group during a courtesy call at the Governor's Office yesterday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Taisacan-Wilson earns master's in EE

Blane Christopher Taisacan-Wilson, a grandson of Martin M. Taisacan and Matilde S. Taisacan of Saipan, earned his master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University last Sunday, June 18, 2017.

He will be moving to Maryland to start his professional



Taisacan-Wilson

career with the U.S. Department of Defense, as an electronics engineer at a DOD power laboratory.

"I want to express my appreciation to my family and friends for their support and encourage-

ment these past few years," he said. **(Saipan Tribune)**

Teaching people to snorkel, enjoy the water

They're surrounded by water, and yet many Guam residents fear it.

Assistant instructor of University of Guam Sea Grant Marie Auyong hopes to change that by creating opportunities where people can experience the water in a supportive, comfortable environment.

On Saturday, June 24, at the Dededo Pool, she will lead a

snorkel intro meant to teach very basic water safety and orient people to snorkeling.

UOG Sea Grant will provide all gear for \$5, cash only. The snorkel intro starts at 10:30am and goes until 12pm, but participants can stay at the pool until closing time. Due to gear size limits, participants should be 12 and older.

"Snorkeling can be an easy

way to enjoy Guam's underwater life, but folks won't try it because they get uncomfortable with ill-fitting gear or freak out about deep water. Several adults I know are also a little traumatized from beach experiences in their youth, where maybe things didn't go exactly to plan," Auyong said.

Participants will start standing in waist or chest-deep water and learn how to fit and defog their masks, get comfortable breathing underwater, and practice efficient kicking with fins.

"We're not looking to develop the next Michael Phelps," said Auyong. "We want to create a place for success and hope that people are encouraged to keep getting in the pool, and eventually, the ocean!"

For more information about marine-related education activities, contact Auyong at auyongm@triton.uog.edu or call 685-4355.

The National Sea Grant College Program is a partnership between universities and the federal government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency within the Department of Commerce. The Sea Grant network includes more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, public outreach experts, educators, and students. UOG Sea Grant brings the science of coastal resources to Guam's people as one of 33 programs across the nation. See <http://www.cnas-re.uog.edu/> for more information. **(UOG)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works 2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW-17-RFP-018

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND REHABILITATION CENTER IN MARPI

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Grounds Maintenance Services for Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Center in Marpi**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-210** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Scope of Work is available on or after **June 13, 2017**, at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Conference Room on **June 30, 2017**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **July 11, 2017**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-210** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
2. Project Approach – 35%
3. Capacity Schedule of Completion – 30%
4. Cost Proposal – 10%

Cost is a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit of proposals. Technical merit is more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest priced proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase. Please include a project budget with your response.

Discussions may be conducted with the responsible firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being awarded for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing firms.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License in order to sign a contract.

Award shall be made to the responsible firm whose proposal is determined in writing to the most Advantageous to the CNMI government taking into consideration price and evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

Sealed proposals must be marked "**DPW-17-RFP-018**". For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and nine (9) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **July 14, 2017**, to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **July 14, 2017**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 14, 2017** AND must be received no later than **July 25, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



Board of Trustees Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on **Friday, June 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.** in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

CHCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING June 23, 2017; 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- A. Call to order**
- B. Adoption of Agenda**
- C. Election of Board officials**
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. Vice Chairperson
- D. Matters presented by the Corporation's Management**
 - a. Review of By-laws of former CHCC Advisory Board
 - b. Review of Board Roles of Responsibilities under PL 19-78
- E. Announcements and adjournment**

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SHRM Guam gets award for advancing HR profession

HAGATNA, Guam—The Society for Human Resource Management recently awarded the Guam Chapter its prestigious EXCEL Platinum Award for the chapter's accomplishments in 2016.

The award aligns the SHRM Guam chapter's activities with SHRM's aspirations for the HR profession. The award recognizes accomplishments and strategic activities and initiatives that enhance the human resources profession.

"Advancing the human resources profession is a daily mission at SHRM and this chapter's outstanding work this year contributed significantly to that goal," said Henry G. "Hank" Jackson, president and CEO of SHRM. "Recipients of this prestigious award are those who show a strong commitment to advancing the HR profession through service to the community, local networking, and professional development activities."

The EXCEL award can be earned at four levels: bronze, silver, gold, and platinum, and each level has a prescribed set of requirements and accomplishments that must be met. SHRM Guam Chapter has earned and received recognition at the platinum level.

In 2016, 1,286 of Guam's HR professionals and leaders attended nine SHRM Guam Chapter sponsored training/seminar events to include monthly breakfast briefings and the SHRM Guam annual conference. Attendees learned about HR Strategic Planning; Attract, Hire &



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 2016 Society for Human Resource Management Guam Chapter board members.

Retain; Finance for Non-Financial Managers; Employment Law Update; Update on EEOC Laws; USDOL Wage and Hour Division Updates; and Keeping Employees Motivated.

SHRM Guam Chapter also fundraised and donated \$5,000 to the SHRM Foundation to support professional development activities for HR professionals. For the first time since 2014, SHRM Guam held an HR certification study group and subsidized the cost of the books and

the facilitator, which resulted in several HR professionals passing the SHRM-CP certification exam. SHRM Guam continues its financial commitment to the UOG SHRM Student Chapter to support student attendance at the SHRM Annual Conference.

For more information about the SHRM Guam Chapter, visit guam.shrm.org.

SHRM is the world's largest HR professional society, representing 285,000 members in more than 165 countries. SHRM has more than 575 affiliated chapters within the United States and subsidiary offices in China, India and United Arab Emirates. **(PR)**

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute received yet another warm gift, a \$1,500 donation from Triple J Saipan, Inc. just as the institute is getting ready to kick off its 2nd annual dinner fundraiser on Friday, June 23, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Presenting the \$1,500 donation to NMTI were Mario Valentino, Jay Santos, and Alex Camacho of Triple J.

According to Valentino, "as a vested stakeholder we want to see NMTI succeed in their endeavors to educate eligible U.S. workers. Our current investments need NMTI's students and if [Triple J owner] Mr. Bob Jones could be here today, he would be the one handing this gift over."

Triple J family of companies consists of Triple J Motors, Hertz, Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, Triple

J Truckload Store, Saipan Comfort Homes, Surfrider Resort Hotel, Sandy Beach Homes, Tony Roma's, Truong's, Capricciosa, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Surf Club, and, coming soon, Great Harvest Bread Co.

NMTI CEO Agnes McPhetres received the donation.

"Mr. Jones has been a supporter for quite some time. Last year he donated \$5,000 in Educational Tax Credit to our school. Triple J's businesses open up doors of opportunities to residents. We are very fortunate to have them as a stakeholder," said McPhetres.

NMTI's programs are focused on "hands on learning." Funds generated at this year's gala will be allocated to the construction of a mock hotel room and restaurant, which will give students in NMTI's

Triple J donates \$1,500 to NMTI gala



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas Trades Institute CEO Agnes McPhetres receives the donation from Mario Valentino, Jay Santos, and Alex Camacho of Triple J.

hotel and restaurant program a greater hands-on practice before moving on to the ho-

tels. Gala tickets are priced at \$100 per person and can be bought by calling Ross Man-

glona at (670) 322-6684 or Julie Manglona at (670) 783-7682. **(PR)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OES now accepting registrations

Oleai Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians of returning students are also asked to update registration and all supporting documents. Registration forms are available at our main office. For more information or inquiry, call our main office at 664-3942. **(PR)**

MHS report cards now available

Report cards for Marianas High School students are available. Registration for new incoming and returning students for Marianas High School is ongoing until July 31, 2017. Documents required of new incoming students: transcript/diploma/certification of completion; birth certificate; updated school entrance health certificate; legal guardianship from the court with seal (if applicable); medical insurance or Medicaid.

For returning students, the required documents are: birth certificate; updated school entrance health certificate; and medical insurance or Medicaid. Copies of all required documents must be attached before your child can be registered. Call 664-3800/01 or visit www.marianashighschool.com for more information. **(PR)**

Temporary closure of the Garapan Fishing Base Boat launching ramp

All boaters and frequent visitors to the Garapan Fishing Base are reminded that the fishing base boat launching ramp will be temporarily closed from today, June 19, to Friday, June 23 2017, to provide the Hawaiian Rock Products construction crew ample time to complete the paving of the trailer boat parking lot. Please avoid parking in the proposed paving area. For more information, contact the Department of Lands and Natural Resources at 322-9834. **(PR)**

Slow water service extended

The temporary water service interruption for the Beach Road, Middle Road and Gualo Rai areas will be extended until today, June 20, 2017. The purpose of the extended water interruption is to provide ample time for the proper installation of the damaged waterline and installation of a new 16-inch gate valve. The installation of the new valve is to ensure all affected Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers will receive water service in case another waterline breaks within the same area in the future. Customers in the affected areas will be experiencing low water pressure during the duration of the repair and should expect water service hours from 6am to 10am daily. **(CUC)**

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the

following dates and times:

■ June 19 and 21, from 9am to 4pm

■ June 20 and 22, from 7am to 4pm

■ June 23, from 7:30am to noon

The U.S. military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on June 21, from 2pm to 8pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

The location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. **(PR)**

Jury selection is cancelled

This is to inform all prospec-

tive jurors on panels "17AR" and "17AS" that the jury selection scheduled for today, June 19, 2017, at 8:30am in Courtroom 220A is cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact deputy clerk Novelyn Wania-Tenorio at the Superior Court at 236-9776. **(PR)**

Change in water service hours

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has changed the water service hours for customers along Chalan Msgr. Martinez Road in As Lito and As Perdido. Due to the daily low tank levels caused by a decrease in water supply from the CUC water wells in Isley Field, customers in the affected areas will be receiving water service from 6am to 4pm daily. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). **(PR)**

SHEFA now accepting applications

For all new, ongoing and returning applicants: The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program is now accepting applications for fall 2017. Application deadline is July 3, 2017, and deadline to submit all supporting documents is Sept. 30, 2017. Application and checklist can be downloaded from www.saipanshefa.net. For more information, visit the SHEFA website, email saipanshefa@gmail.com, or call the office directly at (670) 233-5995. Applications can be scanned and emailed, submitted to the SHEFA office, or faxed to (670) 235-5996. **(PR)**

SSHS registration

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Come to our main office and pick up registration forms. All requirements must be turned in. Call 664-4000/2 for any other information. **(PR)**

More than 350 attend NMC's Cash for College on Saipan

More than 350 students attended Northern Marianas College's Cash for College workshop this past Saturday on Saipan.

"We are glad to see that so many students are taking

» Tinian and Rota Cash for College workshops to be held this week

offer," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We encourage our residents on Tinian and Rota to attend the

advantage of the assistance that the Cash for College workshops

workshops scheduled on those islands this week."

The next Cash for College workshop will be held on Tinian on Tuesday, June 20, 2017, from 9am to 2pm at the NMC Tinian Center. The workshop will also be held on Rota on Thursday, June 22, 2017, from 10am to 2pm at the NMC Rota Center.

The workshop aims to assist students and their parents maximize scholarship opportunities that are available to

students seeking to obtain a college education. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime during the scheduled times noted above.

The workshop is free to attend and is open to anyone in the community who would like assistance in finding money for college—whether they are recent high school graduates or not. Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college

financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Tinian or Rota Municipal Scholarship, and the CNMI Scholarship.

Staff members from the college will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process.

Although not required, It is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid

U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), copy of 2015 1040, copy of 2015 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency.

For additional information, visit marianas.edu or contact Maria Aguon at 433-0657 on Tinian or Martin Mendiola at 532-9513 on Rota. (NMC)

FROM MICROBES TO MEGAFauna

Coral reef ecosystem in the Marianas



Photo shows a colony of *Acropora globiceps*, a coral species protected by the Endangered Species Act. At least five of these colonies were found in a single dive by scientists participating in the NOAA research cruise. This news is particularly pertinent given the ongoing EIS activities for this island due to military proposals to use it for expanded training activities.

NOAA FISHERIES/DAVID BURDICK

The research vessel *Hi'ialakai* of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will arrive on Saipan this week. On Thursday, June 22, the Asia-Pacific Academy of Science, Education and Environmental Management will host a public presentation by shipboard scientists at the American Memorial Park auditorium, starting at 6pm. Everyone is invited and, as at all APASEEM gatherings, questions from the audience are encouraged.

NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center's Coral Reef Ecosystem Program collects data on fish, coral, invertebrate, and microbial communities, as well as data on the physical structure and chemical properties of the region's reef ecosystems. The program's goal is to provide sound scientific data for the management and conservation of coral reefs.

In addition to its reef research, the cruise also assisted NOAA's Cetacean Research Program through the retrieval and deployment of high-frequency acoustic recording packages, or HARPs, in the Pacific Remote Islands and around Tinian and Saipan. These devices are deployed to continually collect data on whale and dolphin vocalizations.

The research cruise is a major team effort. The ship's scientific crew hails from the University of Hawaii Manoa,

Scripps Oceanographic Institute (University of California San Diego), San Diego State University, University of Guam, the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality as well as NOAA.

Dr. Kelvin Gorospe, a reef fish ecologist based in Honolulu, is chief scientist. (PR)



Northern Marianas College Admissions & Records counselor Lisa Rafael assists a participant in filling up an NMC application form during the recent Cash for College workshop held last Saturday. The next Cash for College workshop will be held on Tinian tomorrow, June 20, 2017, from 9am to 2pm and on Rota on Thursday, June 22, 2017, from 10am to 2pm.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Sending the right message to Russia, Trump

With its 98-2 vote to expand sanctions against Russia, the U.S. Senate has effectively served notice on two great powers in Washington: Russia, which may have to face new costs for its meddling in the 2016 U.S. election; and President Donald Trump, who will have to contend with congressional input on U.S. policy toward Russia.

The bill, which also strengthens penalties against Iran, would put into law sanctions that had been imposed by former President Barack Obama and not allow Trump to ease or lift them without congressional review. It also would allow new sanctions on state-owned entities in Russia, such as those which engage in "malicious cyber activity" or supply weapons to Syria.

At a separate hearing, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson signaled the administration's unhappiness with the impending Senate vote, which he argued would reduce its "flexibility" in reaching out to Russia. But Trump has only himself to blame. Ignoring Russia's aggressive conduct in Syria, Europe, and Afghanistan—not to mention inside U.S. computer servers—he has pushed for lifting sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Crimea, cyberattacks and human-rights violations. He and members of his administration have dissembled about their contacts with Russia during the campaign and dismissed the steadily expanding investigations into them.

In an alternate universe—one in which someone other than Trump were president—pursuing better relations with Russia might make sense. Sanctions are best used sparingly, in concert with other nations and with a clear goal in mind. And while Congress certainly has a constitutional role to play in foreign relations, the ship of state sails most smoothly with one captain, not 535.

But Russian President Vladimir Putin is showing no signs of contrition or reform—and neither, for that matter, is Trump. From the Americas and Europe to the Middle East and Asia, his outbursts and their dissonance with both longstanding U.S. policies and his own cabinet's pronouncements are worrying allies and creating openings for adversaries. Under these circumstances, the Senate was right to step in.

There is a larger issue at stake as well, beyond Russia or Trump's relationship with Russia: Congress needs to reassert its prerogatives in foreign policy. In budget hearings, there were hopeful signs. Senators made clear that the administration's plans to downgrade the promotion of democracy and the provision of humanitarian aid—both areas of longstanding U.S. leadership—will face resistance. Congress can also reclaim its constitutional power to declare war by approving a clear authorization for the use of military force against Islamic State.

The lopsided vote in favor of the Senate bill suggests that a basis for a bipartisan policy on Russia still exists. In this polarized age, that's something on which the president should build.

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THE GUN-VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC IN AMERICA



N. Korea sends frightening message over college student

Make no mistake about it: North Korea's horrific treatment of American college student Otto Warmbier is meant as a lesson to the United States: Give us what we want, or there is no cruelty we are not prepared to visit upon your people.

Like so much else in America today, Warmbier's plight is being politicized. However, we would be wise not to get caught up in partisan recrimination, as that would no doubt please North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un.

Let's also not blame the victim. Yes, a trip to North Korea—a nation with which we are still officially at war—is not very prudent. And engaging in typical college hijinks in such a country (Warmbier allegedly tried to steal a propaganda sign from a hotel) does not show great judgment. But to accuse him of "hostile acts against the state," as North Korea did, and to sentence him to 15 years hard labor is outlandishly cruel and wholly uncalled for.

The University of Virginia student was returned to his family this week after being detained in North Korea for 17 months. News photos showed the comatose Warmbier being carried off an airplane. Doctors in Cincinnati said he suffered extensive loss of brain tissue and described him as unresponsive and unaware of his surroundings. North Korean officials admitted he's been in a coma for at least a year.

Warmbier did what so many other intellectually curious young men and women do in their college years. He went on a wild adventure. We praise this type of youthful exuberance, this spirited indifference to dangers that in hindsight are glaring.

Granted, his adventure was more ambitious than most. In December 2015, Warmbier took a detour to North Korea on his way to study finance in Hong Kong. It was meant to be a brief excursion, just a few days arranged by a sketchy tour company based in China.

Warmbier was arrested at the airport in Pyongyang as his flight was due to leave. Then he was subjected to a public and humiliating trial, during which he made a tearful confession. And then he disappeared into the country's notoriously brutal penal system.

The Obama administration did not succeed in bringing the un-

By **MARY SANCHEZ**
The Kansas City Star

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lucky young man back home. And Warmbier's father is understandably and vocally angry at its failure. His son's release came only after the family recently broke with the Obama administration's advice to avoid agitating in public while diplomatic channels were worked.

The family appeared on Fox News and asked Trump to intervene. And now their son is home, but with his brain in a condition they likely could never have imagined.

North Korea has launched 16 missiles this year and continues to test its nuclear capabilities. The Trump administration is hoping that China will help pressure North Korea, which depends on China for vital economic sustenance, to curtail its flagrant weapons testing and other militaristic provocations.

One wonders how the arrest, ill treatment and release of Warmbier fit in this diplomatic context. Was the release meant to give Trump something to gloat about? Is Warmbier being used as bait for Trump's ego?

Three other Americans are still being held in North Korea. And some experts surmise that Warmbier became an inconvenient nuisance for North Korea as his medical condition deteriorated. He was no longer a good pawn to play because more questions and outrage would result if he had died.

Many questions remain about just what the North Koreans did to Warmbier and why. As we seek to answer them, we must avoid pitting a past administration against the present one.

Warmbier was an all-American kid. Widely circulated photos show him as a homecoming king, National Merit semi-finalist, soccer player and diver his hometown of Wyoming, Ohio, a community like so many in the Midwest. I can't help but wonder if that made him more of a prize for North Korea to nab.

Warmbier went on an adventure. And now he has the nation praying for a miraculous recovery, for peace for his family.

But in Washington, the fundamental question remains how to deal with a regime that is unrelentingly hostile and at times seemingly insane, whether it's taking our citizens as hostages or developing a nuclear weapons program that threatens us all.

Self-righteous left-wingers a danger to rule of law

If it had not been for two brave police officers, a lunatic leftist may just possibly have wiped out every player on a House Republican baseball team, and yes, both political parties have since said let's calm things down.

That's good, but don't suppose this shooting does not fit snugly in with the most hate-filled, legally amiss, intellectually stupefying political rancor at least since the 1960s and '70s.

It comes from the Democrats, from liberals, not primarily from Republicans or conservatives, and the chief target is President Donald Trump, said to be traitorous and treasonous. There are other targets, too. The GOP is depicted, for instance, as purchased politicians out to kill hundreds of thousands through wanting to revamp Obamacare. Conservatives are summed up as demented, racist, sexist ideological idiots shed of tolerance, good will or decency.

Mindlessly, and driven as well by political opportunism, these self-righteously furious left-wing players could simultaneously wreck democracy and the rule of law, as seen, for one thing, in the multitudinous leaks. Has there ever been a time in American history when we have had as many anonymous leaks of classified information, many obviously coming from people within our intelligence agencies?

This is downright felonious behind-the-scenes government turning on the will of the people and threatening our future more even than the imagined Russian collusion. To date there is no evidence, just a conspiracy theory ranking roughly with the birther

theory of President Barack Obama being born in Africa.

Top lawyers also say the new enthusiasm about obstruction of justice should be put six feet under, seeing as how Trump had a constitutional right and endless precedence for doing what he did. The special counsel, by the way, ought to drop out because of rules saying special friendships with witnesses are verboten. He has a special friendship with James Comey, someone who broke FBI rules in his own unauthorized leaking of his memo.

Instead of very nearly singular absorption on trying to catch Trump on something big, how about spending some time investigating the leaking, including recent revelations of how the National Security Agency under Obama broke the law repeatedly by spying on Americans.

Of course, much of the upending vitriol spills forth legally, as in comedian Kathy Griffin holding up a bloody replica of Donald Trump's severed head or something new: a Shakespearian drama in New York in which the assassinated Julius Caesar is a Trump lookalike. Did no one connected with these goings-on recognize the implications, especially at this particular time, and grasp that there are crazies out there who just may feel egged on?

Less but not excusable is Stephen Colbert's demeaning, angry vulgarity about Trump's private parts and Madonna wanting to burn down the White House. We have students on campuses rioting against conservative speakers, and we have the anti-fascist fascists in black doing their violent best to disgrace their country. We have even had former Attorney General Loretta Lynch treat

By **JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



the Trump administration's supposed evil as requiring something akin to a violent revolution.

The Democrats agree we need peaceful politics but do not apologize, appear nowhere ready to focus on issues that desperately need addressing and are still squinting at impeachment. They do call for more gun control, as though a 42 percent crime drop in the 1990s was not simultaneous with one of the biggest firearms increases ever.

When candidate Trump said during his campaign he might not accept the results of the election, we had Hillary Clinton saying that was "horrifying" for what it might do to our democracy. She, however, does not accept the results any more than many others in her party, and instead of trying to deal with Trump's deficiencies in an honorable way that puts the country first, she and the others follow their own deficiencies wherever they lead.

Clinton was right about one thing. It is horrifying.

Attack on Scalise was a hate crime

I just got finished writing a column about how the internet is vile and vicious and people have become poisonous vipers in the privacy of their basements. It was in direct reaction to the blowback I received this week to my Bill Cosby essay, which, as my editor noted "broke the internet."

I think she gives me too much credit, because I have it on good authority that the internet is like the child-proof seal on over-the-counter medicine and can never be broken, but I appreciate the shout-out.

And then, I re-read the column and realized that I'd missed the elephant in the room, the one that was shaking off her baseball gear and gesticulating frantically at me from the corner.

I got tweeted at, vilified, and flooded with emails hoping I'd be raped.

But someone else was in intensive care, in critical condition, suffering from a bullet wound that shredded his internal organs.

Several others were also in the hospital, having acted heroically to protect many other people who were in harm's way in a park in Alexandria, Va.

And that column about bruised feelings seemed narrow, narcissistic and just completely tone deaf.

So I started all over again, but not without some understanding of what that first column had in common with this one: the hateful, heated, horrific tone of our current public discourse.

Words did not send a bullet into the body of Rep. Steven Scalise, or the other four people who were wounded Wednesday morning by another in a long line of gunmen.

But we can't ignore the heavy impact that words have had on our psyches and our conduct, our good intentions and our bad faith, our hopes and our hype, and all the other things that fill our waking hours. Politics is no longer a game for gentlemen and gentle ladies, all gathered to advance the public welfare.

It is now a blood sport, and we saw that quite literally Wednesday morning.

Some will hesitate to connect the rhetoric of the political landscape to the averted massacre in Alexandria, attributing the killer's motives to mental illness or easy access to guns. That eternal dance of gun control versus 2nd Amendment rights will continue to play out regardless of how many people are murdered (because if we're still tripping the light fantastic after kindergartners were murdered before Christmas, we'll never really learn the necessary lessons.)

But I think a big part of what happened this week has to do with the sickness that has begun to infect all of us, that truly

"viral" cocktail of technology and pathology.

The man who shot Congressman Scalise hated Donald Trump. He made that very clear with his social media imprint, writing things on his Facebook page that I cannot reproduce here without using a large number of symbols, numbers and exclamation points. He was also a strong supporter of Bernie Sanders.

I have nothing but praise for Senator Sanders. Immediately after the shooting occurred, he emerged on the Senate Floor to condemn the attacks, and showed himself to be first and foremost an American, not a partisan. I do not share his beliefs or his policies, but I think he is one of the finest men in Washington.

But we cannot ignore the fact that the man who made a direct attack on Republican politicians hated Republicans, by his own words and deeds. We can be all Kumbaya about it and try and say that this is irrelevant, and we can also try and count the number of fairies that can dance on the head of a pin, but both would be a waste of time. The man who shot Steve Scalise hated him, because he was a member of the GOP in a government presided over by Donald Trump.

It was a hate crime.

I say this because I have to, because at every juncture since Donald Trump has been elected, people have been complaining about the rise in hate crimes. When cemeteries were vandalized, it was attributed to "hate," when swastikas were painted on walls, it was blamed on "hate," and when young Muslim wom-

By **CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS**

Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.



en's veils were ripped off of their heads, it was called "hate."

Never mind that many of the incidents never happened or were fabricated to give the impression of a "hate wave." We were all willing, so many of us, to believe that the seas of hatred were rising.

Well guess what? Maybe we, so many of us, were right after all. Maybe we have entered a new era of vilification, of poison, of anger and of distrust. Maybe we can stop pretending that mental illness is the problem, or the proliferation of guns, or poverty, or drugs, or whatever other ill has infected the populace. Maybe we ourselves are the problem, we are the infection, we with our harsh and brutal words scattered across the internet miles with impunity.

I would ask Congressman Scalise what he thinks, but he's unable to answer, just now.



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump shake hands with Dr. Ira Rabin while leaving the MedStar Washington Hospital Center in northeast D.C., after visiting with victims of the Alexandria shooting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/TNS






LETTER TO THE EDITOR

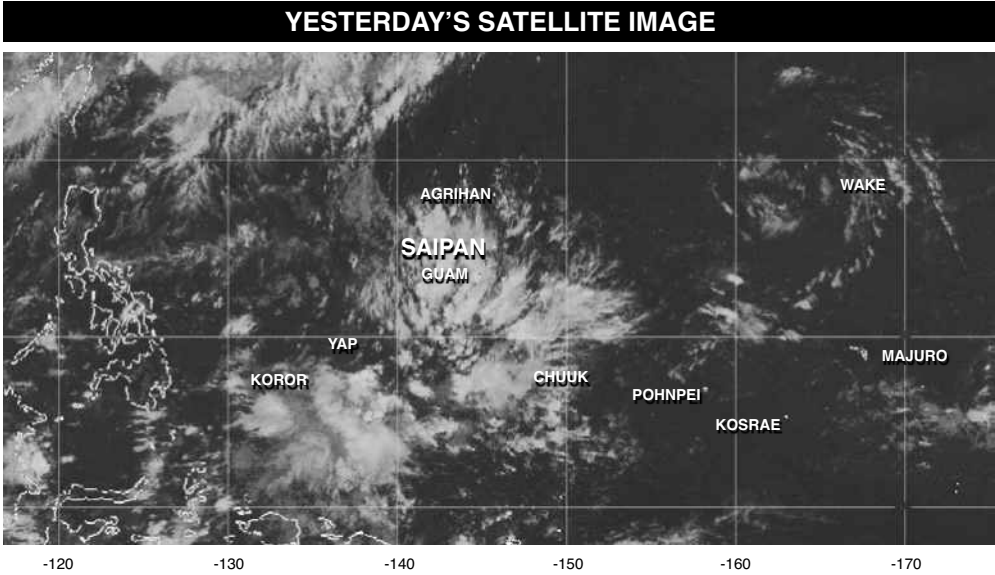
Statement

We are disappointed that Sen. Paul has chosen to file a lawsuit over what we consider to be family property. Paul's claims are meritless, and we deny any allegation of wrongdoing. We have confidence in the judicial process, and will prevail.

Priscilla M. Torres
Thomas A. Manglona

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN				
TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°



PICTURE TIME: 10:04 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

Combined seas are expected to increase a bit today, however they will still be well below advisory criteria at 3 to 5 feet. The main excitement will be thunderstorms caused by the upper-level low northwest of Saipan. A couple have hit Guam overnight and many more have been swinging close by and just missing, with much the same happening in the northern Marianas. North of Anatahan the thunderstorms are now pushing west of the Marianas, within the marine zones though, expect them to be around through tonight. After a lull for a couple of days, the next upper-level low in the chain of pearls will approach. It should begin to affect us somewhere between Thursday night and Friday night. We have isolated showers and thunderstorms starting Friday night. This low looks more developed so we may have to be on the lookout for raising the shower coverage to scattered. A 3rd upper-level low is near Hawaii, it is too early to tell if that one will approach the Marianas eventually or not.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an up-dated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87 81 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85 77 °F
Yap	Rain	86 72 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86 81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	62 56 °F
Beijing	Thunderstorms	85 76 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86 82 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	85 74 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	83 59 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	83 64 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	88 77 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	60 45 °F
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	87 79 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	84 67 °F
Osaka	Sunny	88 68 °F
Paris	Sunny	92 67 °F
Pusan	Sunny	93 68 °F
Rome	Sunny	90 66 °F
Salem	Sunny	87 58 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	71 56 °F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88 66 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	84 69 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	86 66 °F



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:33 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.01
10:36 AM	LOW TIDE	0.20
4:52 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.57
10:14 PM	LOW TIDE	0.80

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:03 AM	2:45 PM	-
Wednesday	2:52 AM	3:45 PM	-
Thursday	3:44 AM	4:48 PM	-
Friday	4:40 AM	5:45 PM	-
Saturday	5:40 AM	6:56 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 19, 2017							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 5	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM	PR1571	9:10pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
				UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
				UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
				UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

German minister sees hope of ‘soft’ Brexit, with conditions

BERLIN (AP)—Germany’s foreign minister says there may now be a chance of a “soft” British exit from the European Union that keeps the U.K. in the bloc’s single market, but is warning that Britain couldn’t pick and choose its conditions.

Brexit negotiations start on Monday, with question marks over Britain’s approach after Prime Minister Theresa May lost her parliamentary majority in an election meant to strengthen her hand in the talks.

■■■
LONDON (AP)—The British government plans to have the next Parliament hold a two-year session to deal with the expected onslaught of Brexit-related legislation.

Parliament normally sits for one year, but officials said late Saturday night more time will be needed.

House of Common leader Andrea Leadsom said Parliament will need “the maximum amount of time to scrutinize these bills” by holding a two-year session.



The legislation is expected to include the Great Repeal

Bill to convert existing European Union law into United Kingdom statutes.

Prime Minister Theresa

May has been struggling to put together a working government since the Conservative Party lost its majority in the June 8 election. She is seeking an arrangement with the Democratic Unionist Party in Northern Ireland.

Formal Brexit talks with the European Union begin Monday.

■■■
German Foreign Minister

Sigmar Gabriel told Sunday’s Welt am Sonntag newspaper that “maybe there is now a chance to achieve a so-called ‘soft Brexit.’” But he said staying in the single market would require Britain to accept EU workers’ freedom of movement.

It also would have to accept the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice, “or at least a joint court that

AP
In this Wednesday June 14, 2017 photo German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel speaks during a press conference at the ministry of foreign affairs in Berlin, Germany.

is staffed by Europeans and Britons” and in principle follows the ECJ’s rulings, Gabriel said.

For many Brexit advocates, those conditions would be impossible to accept as last year’s referendum campaign focused on getting back control over laws and immigration from the EU.

Gabriel said “it would naturally be best if Britain didn’t leave at all.”

“It doesn’t look like that at the moment,” he added. “But we want to keep the door open for the British.”

The center-left Social Democrat strongly criticized May’s Conservatives, saying that they “played with the emotions of citizens in Britain, told fake news about Europe and left people unclear about what consequences this would all have.”

Referring to the “difficult, even impossible situation” created by the indecisive election, he added: “here, those who created such chaos would have long since gone.”

Seasoned pro wants junior-level gig with mission-driven nonprofit

Q: Three years ago, I was rejected for a job I really wanted. Based only on my resume, they apparently concluded I was overqualified. I understand this position will soon be available again, so this time I would like a chance to interview.

The job is with a nonprofit organization whose mission I strongly support. With 30 years of experience in software development, I believe I could be extremely useful to them. Although the description is for someone much more junior, I have no problem with that.

After three decades in the corporate world, I’m ready to use my talents for a worthy cause. I am also no longer the hard-charger that I used to be, so I would prefer a job in which I already have the required skills. How can I increase my odds of finally getting an interview?

A: When your background doesn’t match the stated qualifications, sending in a resume is not the way to go. After a quick review, it will probably wind up in the digital equivalent of the circular file. So to become a serious candidate, you must find a way to make a personal connection.

Accomplishing this goal will require all your networking skills. After making a list of contacts, get in touch with anyone who might help you

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

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connect with this organization. Your ultimate objective is to discuss your interest and expertise with someone involved in the hiring process.

Follow up this conversation with a carefully crafted resume and cover letter. On the resume, be sure to highlight the most relevant aspects of your previous experience. After 30 years, consider omitting some of your earliest jobs. Use the cover letter to reiterate your sincere belief in the mission and your desire to contribute.

Finally, when you do get an interview, be prepared for the inevitable question about why you’re considering a career reversal. Describe the many reasons for your attraction to this job but avoid any hint of a desire to slow down.

Q: As a new supervisor, I don’t know what to do about one of my employees. “Bert” used to be our boss until I replaced him a few months ago. After 20 years, he was forced to step down by the owner of the com-

pany. He’s been acting like a spiteful 65-year-old child ever since.

Having been a supervisor, Bert knows exactly how to create problems without violating any policies. He undermines my decisions and creates conflict in the group. I’ve thought about going to human resources, but I don’t know if that’s appropriate. What do you think?

A: Although Bert’s behavior is clearly unacceptable, it’s not at all surprising. Being demoted after two decades is tough, and reporting to a former employee makes it even more humiliating. So despite his inappropriate antics, try to have some compassion for his predicament.

Because this problem is too tricky for a novice supervisor to handle, discuss Bert’s disruptive actions with your boss and HR manager. They can help you develop a plan for getting him back in line. While Bert’s embarrassment may be understandable, it’s no excuse for stirring up trouble.

Kansas tax hike hailed as fix doesn’t quite balance budget

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—The big income tax increase Kansas legislators enacted over Gov. Sam Brownback’s veto won’t balance the budget by itself, despite immediately boosting the state’s credit outlook.

Even though the reversal of most of Brownback’s income tax cuts will inject \$1.2 billion in new revenue through June 2019, lawmakers will have to continue relying on some of the same fiscal patches they’ve employed in recent years to keep the books balanced as state law requires.

“It’s going to take years to dig out of the hole,” said Sen. Laura Kelly, a Topeka Democrat who helped negotiate the final version of this year’s budget legislation.

Part of the reason for the ongoing shortage is the spending increase for public schools that legislators approved last month to meet a state Supreme Court mandate. However, the state’s budget problems were deep enough that the GOP-controlled Legislature couldn’t raise taxes—or cut spending—enough to fix all of them at once and still get the supermajorities needed to override Brownback’s veto.

“In essence, they’ve converted a super-large project into a medium-sized or small problem,” said John Hicks, executive director of the National Association of State Budget Officers. “Things are rarely done or completely resolved in one action.”

State lawmakers and commentators outside Kansas read the GOP-controlled Legislature’s action on taxes earlier this month as a repudiation of the tax-cutting experiment the conservative governor launched in 2012, which he touted as a national model. They also saw it as a timely rebuke of President Donald Trump’s plan to cut federal income taxes, which contained some similarities.

Kansas faced persistent budget problems following the Brownback-inspired tax cuts. The bill enacted this year over his veto largely rolls back those policies, raising rates and eliminating an exemption for more than 330,000 farmers and business owners.

After legislators overrode Brownback’s tax veto, Moody’s Investors Service changed its outlook for Kansas’ credit rating from nega-

tive to stable and described the event as “credit positive.” It said in a report that the tax increase will reduce the state’s budget problems to “more manageable dimensions.”

The governor has blamed the state’s budget woes on slumps in agriculture and energy production. Through last year, a more conservative Legislature appeared to agree with him.

Lawmakers tinkered with income tax deductions in 2013 and raised sales and cigarette taxes in 2015 to patch budget holes. They also siphoned money from highway projects and scaled back contributions to public pensions.

Voters turned Brownback’s legislative allies last year, electing more Democrats and moderate Republicans. New lawmakers said repeatedly that voters told them to find a permanent budget fix.

But the bipartisan group of legislators that repudiated Brownback’s policies still produced 2018 and 2019 budgets that wouldn’t balance without siphoning money from highway projects and shorting pension contributions—a total of about \$830 million over two years.

Nation

Trump attorney says president not under investigation

WASHINGTON (AP)—A member of the president's outside legal team said Sunday that Donald Trump is not under federal investigation, days after Trump appeared to confirm he was with a tweet about being the target of a "witch hunt."

Appearing on a series of morning news programs, attorney Jay Sekulow repeatedly stressed that "the president has not been and is not under investigation." He said a Friday tweet from Trump was specifically directed at a story in The Washington Post about the expanding probe into Russia's election meddling.

As evidence, Sekulow said that Trump has not been notified of any investigation. He also cited the testimony from former FBI Director James Comey before the Senate intelligence committee, in which Comey said he had told Trump he was not under investigation in the months leading up to his May 9 firing.

Asked about the possibility that an investigation has since developed and the president just does not know, Sekulow said: "I can't read people's minds, but I can tell you this, we have not been notified that there's an investigation to the president of the United States. So that—nothing has changed in that regard since James Comey's testimony."

The Post reported last week that Robert Mueller—the special counsel appointed to investigate Russian involvement in the 2016 presidential election—was looking into whether Trump obstructed



President Donald Trump waves as he walks on the South Lawn upon arrival at the White House in Washington, Sunday, June 18, 2017, from Camp David in Maryland.

justice. Mueller was appointed by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and has expansive powers to probe any matters that develop from his initial investigation.

The president wrote on Twitter Friday: "I am being investigated for firing the FBI Director by the man who told me to fire the FBI Director! Witch Hunt."

"Witch hunt" has become Trump's preferred phrase to dismiss the probe into Russian election interference. The message apparently referred to Rosenstein, whose role leading the federal investigation has become increasingly complicated. The White House used a memo he wrote to justify Trump's decision to fire

Comey, but Trump's firing of the FBI director may now be part of the probe.

The president has denied that he has any nefarious ties to Russia and has also disputed that he's attempted to block the investigation into his campaign's possible role in Russia's election-related hacking.

The president has directed

some of his frustration at Rosenstein and Mueller. Sen. Marco Rubio said Sunday that he does not expect Trump to seek to fire them.

"I don't believe it's going to happen," said Rubio on CNN's "State of the Union." "The best thing that could happen for the president, and the country, is a full and cred-

ible investigation."

Trump is under pressure to reveal whether he has any tape recordings of private conversations with Comey. Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said that the panel—overseeing one of several congressional investigations—is looking forward to getting a response from the White House on whether recordings exist.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: California mom attacked child in attempted exorcism

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A Northern California woman was in custody Sunday on suspicion of beating, biting and choking her 11-year-old daughter in an attempt to perform an exorcism on the child, authorities said. Kimberly Felder, 45, stripped her daughter naked and shoved sand into her mouth and into her eyes before a witness tried to stop the attack at a secluded beach in Ferndale, a North Coast town about 115 miles north of San Francisco on Friday, the Humboldt County Sheriff's office said. The witness, John Marciel, said Felder told him she was trying to remove demons from her daughter and continued to hit the girl's head with a piece of driftwood while he tried to restrain her. He said he stayed on the phone with 911 operators as he tried to wrestle Felder to the ground. Deputies who arrived to the scene managed to separate Felder from her daughter and place her in handcuffs.

Authorities: 32 people go to hospitals after deck collapse

LAKESIDE, Mont. (AP)—A total of 32 people were taken to hospitals after the second-story deck of a Montana lodge collapsed during a memorial event for a firefighter, authorities said. Six people were airlifted via helicopter Saturday shortly after the collapse of the deck in Glacier Presbyterian Camp, Lake County Sheriff Don Bell told NBC Montana (<http://bit.ly/2rGeDPT>). Five people are in critical condition, but there are no reported fatalities, he told the TV stations. All patients were in stable condition as of 7 p.m. Saturday, and their injuries range from mild to severe, the Somers Rural Fire Department said. The department says those injured range in age from children to the elderly. About 50 people were gathered to remember William Nickel, a longtime Flathead Valley firefighter who died in April.

GOP senator warns against rushed vote on health care bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Republican senator on Sunday warned against rushing a vote on a GOP bill to repeal and replace the nation's health care law, saying both parties deserve a chance to fully debate the bill and propose changes after it was drafted in secret.

"The Senate is not a place where you can just cook up something behind closed doors and rush it for a vote," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla. "So the first step in this may be crafted among a small group of people, but then everyone's going to get to weigh in."

His comments come as Senate Republicans are working hard to finalize legislation to replace the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, without a formal, open drafting session. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said he hopes

to bring a bill to the floor for a vote within the next two weeks.

But Rubio said he believes the process could take longer and urged the Senate to slow down. These are striking comments from a Republican senator whose party is seeking to push through legislation without the help of Democrats. President Donald Trump has been eager for quick action, although in a closed-door luncheon with 15 GOP senators last week, he described a House-passed bill as "mean." Trump said he wanted the Senate version to be "more generous," according to congressional sources.

"It is going to take days and weeks to work through that in the Senate," Rubio said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

The bill passed by House Republicans last month would

phase out in 2020 a Medicaid expansion to additional low-income people. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the House bill would cause 23 million people to lose insurance over a decade and leave many sicker and older consumers with much higher costs.

Hoping to doom the GOP effort, a consumer health group said Sunday it was launching a \$1.5 million campaign aimed at pressuring five Republican senators in the closely divided chamber to vote against the bill. It was among several groups that in recent weeks have announced stepped-up efforts to oppose the bill.

Community Catalyst Action Fund said it will run television and radio ads beginning Monday. They are targeting Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska; Jeff Flake of Arizona; Susan Collins of Maine; Dean Heller

of Nevada; and Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia.

"The Senate is working in secret and rushing to pass a bill," said Robert Restuccia, executive director of the group. "We think it's critical that Americans across the country understand what's at stake for them and their families if the U.S. Senate passes this bill."

Several of the senators being targeted have expressed some concern about the evolving Senate legislation or its process. All of them except Collins also represent states which expanded Medicaid under Obamacare.

Republicans hold a narrow 52-48 majority in the Senate, meaning the party can only afford to have two senators oppose the repeal and replace bill for it to pass with Vice President Mike Pence casting the

tie-breaking vote. No Democrat is expected to support the repeal effort.

The ads seek to cast the GOP effort as having a negative impact on families and older Americans. The TV ad features a mother with a child with asthma who faces difficult choices between filling prescriptions or paying their mortgage due to rising premiums.

GOP senators have been divided over pivotal questions about dismantling and replacing chunks of former President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. These include disagreements over phasing out the Medicaid expansion, easing some of the law's coverage requirements and reshaping subsidies the statute provides to millions of individuals buying policies.

The ads will run over the next two weeks.

Asia

Mother: Son tried to save Navy shipmates after collision

YOKOSUKA, Japan (AP)—The mother of a U.S. Navy sailor said her son kept diving to try to save his shipmates after a collision at sea until their flooded sleeping berth began running out of air pockets, while other survivors—believing their ship was under attack—hurried to man the guns.

Mia Sykes of Raleigh, North Carolina, told The Associated Press on Sunday that her 19-year-old son, Brayden Harden, was knocked out of his bunk by the impact, and water immediately began filling the berth, after their destroyer, the USS Fitzgerald, collided with a Philippine-flagged container ship four times its size off the Japanese coast.

The ships collided about 2:20 a.m. Saturday, when the Navy said most of the 300 sailors on board would have been sleeping, and authorities have declined to speculate on a cause while the crash remains under investigation.

Sykes says her son told her that four men in his berth, including those sleeping on bunks above and below him died, while three died in the berth above his.

“They did what they were trained to do,” said Sykes, who said she hopes her son, from Herrin, Illinois, can come home to be with family as he works through what hap-



AP
In this Saturday, June 17, 2017, photo, the damaged USS Fitzgerald is seen off Yokosuka, near Tokyo, Japan, after the Navy destroyer collided with a merchant ship.

pened. “You have to realize most of them are 18, 19 and 20-year-olds living with guilt. But I told him, ‘There’s a reason you’re still here and make that count.’”

On Monday morning in Japan, the Navy’s 7th Fleet identified the seven sailors who died. Navy divers had recovered the bodies after the severely damaged Fitzgerald returned to the fleet’s home in

Yokosuka, Japan, on Saturday with assistance from tug boats.

The victims were Gunner’s Mate Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby, 19, from Palmyra, Virginia; Yeoman 3rd Class Shingo Alexander Douglass, 25, from San Diego, California; Sonar Technician 3rd Class Ngoc T Truong Huynh, 25, from Oakville, Connecticut; Gunner’s Mate 2nd Class Noe Hernandez, 26, from Weslaco,

Texas; Fire Controlman 2nd Class Carlos Victor Ganzon Sibayan, 23, from Chula Vista, California; Personnel Specialist 1st Class Xavier Alec Martin, 24, from Halethorpe, Maryland; and Fire Controlman 1st Class Gary Leo Rehm Jr., 37, from Elyria, Ohio.

In a statement, acting Navy Secretary Sean Stackley said, “We are all deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our fellow shipmates. ... As details

emerge, we can all be proud of the heroic effort by the crew to tend to the needs of those injured and save the ship from further damage while returning safely to port.”

He thanked “our Japanese allies” for their swift assistance, and said the Navy will full investigate the cause.

Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, the commander of the 7th Fleet, described a harrowing scene as other sailors fought to keep the

ship from sinking. Most of the damage is below the waterline, including a large gash near the keel, Aucoin said.

“The water flow was tremendous, and so there wasn’t a lot of time in those spaces that were open to the sea. And as you can see now, the ship is still listing, so they had to fight the ship to keep it above the surface. It was traumatic,” Aucoin said at a news conference at the Yokosuka base on Sunday.

He said one machinery room and two berthing areas for 116 crew members were severely damaged from the impact to the ship’s side. Navy spokesman Lt. Paul Newell said the victims may have been killed by the impact of the collision or drowned in the flooding.

The Fitzgerald’s captain, Cmdr. Bryce Benson, suffered a head injury in the collision and was airlifted to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Yokosuka. Two other crew members suffered cuts and bruises and were also flown out by helicopter.

Conditions were clear at the time of the collision, though the area is particularly busy with sea traffic.

ASIAN BRIEFS

South Korea to scrap building new nuclear power plants

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea, one of the world’s largest nuclear electricity producers, will scrap plans to build new nuclear power plants. President Moon Jae-in said Monday that South Korea will move away from the nuclear energy and will not seek to extend the life of existing nuclear plants. Moon’s speech was made at a ceremony marking the shutdown of the country’s oldest nuclear power plant, Kori 1, nearly 40 years after it went online. Last year a third of electricity in South Korea was produced from nuclear power plants. Its nuclear electricity production was the fifth-largest in the world, according to the World Nuclear Association. Moon promised to cut coal and nuclear power during his presidential campaigns. He also pledged to shut old coal power plants and stop building new coal plants.

Rights group condemns attacks on Vietnamese activists

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—An international human rights group has condemned attacks on Vietnamese bloggers and activists by unknown men and urged the government to carry out impartial investigations and bring those responsible to justice. New York-based Human Rights Watch in a report released Monday documented 36 incidents between January 2015 and April 2017. In many cases, the

assaults took place in plain view of uniformed police who do not intervene, it said. The report said in many of the cases, the assaults took place in tandem with and seemingly in support of official repressive measures against the activists in question. The report said there are approximately 110 political prisoners in Vietnam. The communist country has said there it has no political prisoners, and that only lawbreakers are put behind bars.

Afghan officials: foreign citizen kidnapped in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A foreign contract worker was kidnapped in the Afghan capital Kabul early Sunday, said an official. Gen. Mohammad Almas, chief of Kabul police’s Crime Investigation Department said a Kenyan national was kidnapped from the Kati Char district of Kabul city, and that an investigation had been launched. Agriculture Ministry spokesman Latifullah Rashedi said the kidnapped man was working as accountant for the ministry but declined to state his nationality. Another official in the ministry, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters, said the man is Kenyan. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Last month a Finnish woman was kidnapped from a Kabul guest house in an attack that killed a German woman and an Afghan security guard.

PH eyes truce with communist rebels amid siege

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government said Sunday that it would suspend offensives against communist guerrillas to reciprocate a similar plan by the insurgents and allow troops to focus on quelling a bloody siege by Islamic State group-aligned militants that has dragged on for nearly a month in a southern city.

Philippine negotiator Silvestre Bello III said the government move aims to foster talks for a cease-fire accord and a peace pact with New People’s Army rebels. Troops have been battling communist and Muslim militants simultaneously in the country’s south.

“The Philippine government hereby correspondingly reciprocates with the same declaration of not undertaking offensive operations against the New People’s Army,” Bello said in a statement, without specifying when such a suspension of government offensives would take effect and under what terms.

Despite the peace overtures,

Philippine troops killed five communist rebels in separate clashes in the south while the guerrillas stormed a police station in a central town and seized a dozen assault rifles and pistols over the weekend, officials said.

Three communist guerrillas were killed in Davao Oriental province and two others died in Compostela Valley in separate clashes with army troops Saturday, military officials said.

In the central town of Maasin in Iloilo province, about 50 communist rebels stormed a police station and seized 12 rifles and pistols, two-way radios, laptop computers, jewelry and a patrol car, said police Chief Superintendent Cesar Hawthorne Binag, who condemned the attack. Criminal complaints will be filed against the attackers, he said.

The rebels claimed responsibility for the attack, saying in a statement that they waged the assault to punish Maasin policemen for their alleged involvement in extortion and for

failing to stop the spread of illegal drugs and gambling.

While President Rodrigo Duterte has pursued talks with the communist rebels, who have been waging one of Asia’s longest-running Marxist insurgencies, he has expressed outrage over continuing guerrilla attacks. The rebels have also protested what they said were continuing military assaults on their rural strongholds.

The accusations and other differences have hampered negotiations being brokered by Norway, causing a scheduled round of talks to be canceled last month.

The latest flaring of fighting involving the communist insurgents erupted as thousands of troops and police struggled to end a 27-day siege by Muslim militants aligned with the Islamic State group in southern Marawi city. Duterte has declared martial law in the south to deal with the most daring attack yet by IS-linked militants that has alarmed governments in Southeast Asia.

World

1 dead in crash near London mosque suspected as terrorism

LONDON (AP)—A vehicle struck pedestrians near a mosque in north London early Monday morning, killing one man and injuring 10 other people in what police are investigating as a terrorist incident.

Police said the 48-year-old man who was driving the car has been arrested and taken to a hospital as a precaution. He will be given a mental health evaluation.

The crash occurred at a time when the multiethnic neighborhood was crowded with Muslims leaving the Finsbury Park mosque after Ramadan prayers. Muslim leaders called it a hate crime and asked the public to stay calm.

Police said the driver was detained by the crowd until police arrived.

The crash occurred shortly after midnight, when police received reports of a collision between a van and pedestrians. Police said eight of the injured were hospitalized; the other two had minor injuries and were treated at the scene.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing police give emergency heart massage to at least one of the injured.

A leader of the Muslim Council of Britain called for extra security at mosques in light of the apparent attack. The group's general secretary, Harun Khan, described the incident as a hate crime against Muslims.

"During the night, ordinary



British citizens were set upon while they were going about their lives, completing their night worship," he said. "It appears from eyewitness accounts that the perpetrator was motivated by Islamophobia."

London Mayor Sadiq Khan, the first Muslim to serve in that position, said extra police would be deployed. He called the incident a "horrific terrorist attack."

Video filmed in the immediate aftermath showed a Caucasian man being detained by police.

Someone in the crowd yelled to others not to harm

the man while he was taken into custody. The video of the crash early Monday morning was accessed by the AP.

Someone in the crowd is heard shouting, "No one touch him! No one! No one!"

The chairman of the Finsbury Park Mosque says the van crash that hit worshippers was a "cowardly attack" and urged Muslims going to mosques to be vigilant.

Mohammed Kozbar said the Muslim community is "in shock." He complained that the "mainstream media" was unwilling to call the at-

tack a terrorist incident for many hours.

London police closed the area to normal traffic. A helicopter circled above the area as a large cordon was established to keep motorists and pedestrians away.

Eyewitnesses told British media that the van seemed to have veered and hit people intentionally.

Mohammed Shafiq of the Ramadhan Foundation, a Muslim organization, said that based on eyewitness reports, it seems to be a "deliberate attack against innocent Muslims."

The Finsbury Park mosque was associated with extremist ideology for several years after the 9/11 attacks in the United States, but was shut down and reorganized. It has not been associated with radical views for more than a decade.

It is located a short walk away from Emirates Stadium,

home of the Arsenal football club in north London.

Prime Minister Theresa May described the crash as a "potential terrorist attack" and said she would chair an emergency security Cabinet session later Monday.

She said her thoughts were with the injured, their loved ones and emergency officials who responded to the incident.

Britain's terrorist alert has been set at "severe," meaning an attack is highly likely.

Earlier this month, a van veered into pedestrians on London Bridge, setting off vehicle and knife attacks that killed eight people and wounded many others on the bridge and in the nearby Borough Market area. Three Muslim extremists who carried out the attack were killed by police.

Manchester was also hit by a severe attack when a bomber killed more than 20 people at an Ariana Grande concert.

Forest fire kills 62 in Portugal; search on for more bodies

PEDROGÃO GRANDE, Portugal (AP)—A raging forest fire in central Portugal killed at least 62 people as they desperately tried to flee, charring cars and trucks as it swept over roads. The disaster—the worst tragedy Portugal has experienced in decades—shook the nation, with the president declaring that the country's pain "knows no end."

Almost 24 hours after the deaths Saturday night, fires were still churning across the forested hillsides of central Portugal. Police and firefighters were searching charred areas of the forest and isolated homes, looking for more bodies.

"It is a time of pain but also ... a time to carry on the fight" against the flames, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa told the nation in a televised address Sunday evening after the government declared three days of national mourning.

A huge wall of thick smoke and bright red flames towered over the tops of trees in the forested Pedrogao Grande area,

150 kilometers (95 miles) northeast of Lisbon where a lightning strike was believed to have sparked the blaze Saturday. Investigators found a tree that was hit during a "dry thunderstorm," the head of the national judicial police said.

Dry thunderstorms are frequent when falling water evaporates before reaching the ground because of high temperatures. Portugal is prone to forest fires in the dry summer months and temperatures as high as 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) hit the area in recent days.

At least four other significant wildfires were burning Sunday elsewhere in Portugal but the one in Pedrogao Grande was responsible for all the deaths.

"The dimensions of this fire have caused a human tragedy beyond any in our memory," said Prime Minister Antonio Costa told reporters as he arrived at the scene Sunday. "Something extraordinary has taken place and we have to wait for experts to properly determine its causes."

Interior Minister Constanca

Urbano de Sousa said the death toll had risen to 62 by the end of Sunday. She said the country's judicial police was expecting to complete the identification of the bodies soon in order to release them as early as possible.

Interior Ministry official Jorge Gomes said firefighting crews were having difficulties battling the fire, which was "very intense" in at least two of its four fronts. He said authorities were worried about strong winds that could help spread the blaze further.

More than 350 soldiers on Sunday joined the 700 firefighters who have been struggling to put out the blaze, schools in the area were closed until further notice and outdoor fires were banned.

The forest fire deaths were the biggest in memory in Portugal, which saw 25 Portuguese soldiers die fighting wildfires in 1966. Last August, an outbreak of fires across Portugal killed four people, including three on the island of

Madeira, and destroyed huge areas of forest.

Isabel Brandao told The Associated Press on Sunday that she had feared for her life when she saw the Pedrogao Grande blaze.

"Yesterday, we saw the fire but thought it was very far. I never thought it would come to this side," she said. "At 3:30 a.m., my mother-in-law woke me up quickly and we never went to sleep again."

Others were also shocked.

"This is a region that has had fires because of its forests, but we cannot remember a tragedy of these proportions," said Valdemar Alves, the mayor of Pedrogao Grande. "I am completely stunned by the number of deaths."

State broadcaster RTP showed terrifying images of several people on a road trying to escape the intense smoke that had reduced visibility to a few meters (yards). A young man shared a bottle of water with a distraught woman as she stumbled down the road.

President Macron's party dominates French parliamentary vote

PARIS (AP)—President Emmanuel Macron's party, including untested novices, will be sweeping into the lower house of the French parliament, hogging a clear majority of seats after winning an overwhelming victory in Sunday's elections and clinching the young leader's hold on power.

Macron fulfilled his wish to disrupt politics as usual with new faces—including a farmer, a teacher and a math genius—and a new approach. But he may be getting more than he bargained for with the entry into parliament of loud voices from the ultra-left and far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen, both promising to fight his plans to overhaul French labor laws, one of the touchiest subjects in France.

"Through their vote, a wide majority of the French have chosen hope over anger," said Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, reiterating his "total" determination to work on major reforms in the coming months.

A minor reshuffle of the Cabinet, an obligatory move after parliamentary elections,

is expected this week, perhaps as soon as Monday.

The May 7 election of the 39-year-old Macron, himself untested, upended France's political landscape, a phenomenon that continued with the parliamentary victory of a party that didn't exist 14 months ago. With the June 27 start of the new session, the novices within the ranks of Macron's Republic on the Move! party will be learning at high-speed. Half of the candidates in the running for his party were drawn from civilian life, and half were women.

Starting Monday, many will be taking their first official steps in the corridors of power, invited to pick up keys and the blue-white-red sashes worn by elected officials, and learn their way around.

Pollsters projected Republic on the Move! and its allies could take up to about 360 of the lower chamber's 577 seats. Official partial results confirmed the trend, showing them with 327 seats, with 33 seats yet to be counted. The party will have far more than the 289 seats needed for an absolute majority to carry out Macron's program.

Focus

Q&A:

Taliban infiltrate
Afghan army to
target foreign troops

AP
In this Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016 file photo, new members of the Afghan National Army attend their graduation ceremony at the Afghan Military Academy in Kabul, Afghanistan. An uptick in attacks by Afghan National army soldiers against foreign troops would seem a worrisome trend ahead of the deployment of another 4,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan in the latest attempt by Washington to turn around the protracted war against insurgents.

By KATHY GANNON and RAHIM FAIEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An uptick in attacks by Afghan National army soldiers against foreign troops would seem a worrisome trend ahead of the deployment of another 4,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan in the latest attempt by Washington to turn around the protracted war against insurgents.

Two so-called insider attacks, in which a soldier in an Afghan National Army uniform turns his weapon on foreign troops, in as many weeks have killed three U.S. soldiers and wounded another seven.

Insider attacks have been occurring with deadly regularity since 2011. According to an April report by the Modern War Institute at America's West Point it was in 2011 that "insider attacks became the preferred war-fighting tactic of the Taliban, an organization that understood well how to apply limited resources for maximum effect."

The report says since 2007, insider attacks have killed 157 NATO personnel and 557 members of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. But it also blames many attacks against foreign

troops on what it calls cultural friction, where Afghans become infuriated by a perceived insult.

In June alone there were two separate attacks on U.S. soldiers by Afghans wearing an Afghan army uniform. In March another insider attack killed three U.S. soldiers. In April, Taliban fighters dressed in Afghan army uniforms passed through several security rings to enter a base in northern Afghanistan's Balkh province and kill as many as 140 Afghan soldiers.

The attacks come as U.S. President Donald Trump prepares to bolster Washington's presence in Afghanistan to stem the violence and the Taliban's military advances, particularly in rural areas of the country, and largely in the south and the east. But the emergence of an affiliate of the Islamic State group has created a sense of urgency to turn the war around.

WHAT HAVE THE LATEST INSIDER ATTACKS LOOKED LIKE AND WHAT DO THEY SAY ABOUT INSURGENTS' ABILITY TO INFILTRATE?

The diverse locations of the two most recent insider attacks shows the depth of reach now available to insurgents, with one attack taking place in eastern Nangarhar province and the second in northern Af-



AP
In this Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016 file photo, new members of the Afghanistan's National Army march during their graduation ceremony at the Afghan Military Academy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

ghanistan's Balkh province.

Eastern Nangarhar province is understood to be one of the most dangerous regions of Afghanistan, where both the Taliban and the upstart IS affiliate operate. It also borders neighbor Pakistan and has been the scene of the heavy fighting and where the United States last month dropped the largest non-nuclear bomb in its arsenal. The target was the IS affiliate.

In the deadliest attack in Achin in eastern Nangarhar province, three U.S. soldiers were killed when an Afghan soldier emptied his automatic rifle in their direction. There was no earlier indication of his intent. He was also killed.

The most recent attack which took place Saturday occurred in northern Afghanistan

where the Taliban have been making inroads, moving beyond their traditional support base in the south and east of Afghanistan.

When the Taliban announced the start of their spring offensive they took particular aim "on foreign forces, their military and intelligence infrastructure and in eliminating their internal mercenary apparatus." They said one of the tools they would employ to carry out their strategy would be insider attacks. Since the start of their spring offensive three insider attacks have occurred, compared to the two carried out last year.

WHAT MIGHT PROMPT AN AFGHAN ARMY SOLDIER TO TURN HIS WEAPON ON FOREIGN

TROOPS WHO ARE IN AFGHANISTAN AS ALLIES AND TO PROVIDE MILITARY SUPPORT?

The report by West Point's Modern War Institute entitled "Dress Like Allies, Kill Like Enemies" said the reason for insider attacks is a mix of "cultural friction" that results in a perceived insult and Taliban infiltration. A second report done in 2011 by U.S. military psychologists and behavioral scientists, who interviewed dozens of Afghan and American soldiers, discovered a dramatic cultural disconnect, with most Afghan soldiers feeling mistreated and insulted by their American allies.

According to that report, A Crisis of Trust and Cultural Incompatibility, Afghans "found many U.S. soldiers to

be extremely arrogant, bullying, unwilling to listen to their advice, and were often seen as lacking concern for civilian and ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) safety during combat."

The same report said the perception of U.S. soldiers toward their Afghan allies was equally unflattering. U.S. troops accused their Afghan allies of "pervasive illicit drug use, massive thievery, personal instability, dishonesty, no integrity, incompetence, unsafe weapons handling, corrupt officers . . . high AWOL rates, bad morale, laziness (and) repulsive hygiene." They were equally unflattering of civilians whom they said were often sympathetic toward insurgents.

The 2017 report by West Point's Modern War Institute would indicate that little has changed, saying that 40 percent of the 102 insider attacks that occurred between 2007 and 2016 was the result of a personal grievance, while 25 percent the result of Taliban infiltration.

Still there does appear to be attempts to bridge the divide and reduce easy access by insurgents with a much improved vetting process for Afghan soldiers entering the army and stepped up efforts to build relationships and reduce cultural understandings on both sides.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW

Kia Niro
hybrid falters on
transmissionBy ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

2017 Kia Niro is a small crossover, the first dedicated hybrid from the Korean automaker, styled between the Toyota Prius V and Subaru Outback. Pictured in Arlington Heights, Ill., on April 2017. AP

First times usually aren't the best times. You get better with more attempts, though the impression of that first attempt can linger the longest. This is the predicament Kia is in with the Niro hybrid.

Kia's first hybrid-only vehicle has its own dedicated platform expected to help triple its "global green car lineup" to 11 ECO models, Kia said when the Niro debuted at the 2016 Chicago Auto Show.

With a combined 43 mpg (the FE trim gets 50 mpg combined) and black cladding, roof rails and a rear skid plate, the Kia Niro sounds like

the offspring of a marriage between the Toyota Prius and Subaru Outback. It looks like a small, sporting crossover, more than the eco-warrior nonsense promoted in its initial marketing campaign with Melissa McCarthy going to comedic extremes to save the planet. She's a hoot, but part of the Niro's charm is it doesn't rely on eco-quirk designs like the BMW i3 or the Prius. Kia doesn't even use "hybrid" in its name. The Niro has a wide stance and low profile with short overhangs that push the axles to the edges. It looks good.

The problem is with the powertrain, which doesn't seem to know how to balance power from the motor with propulsion from the engine.

There is very little electric-only propulsion, whereas most hybrids under light acceleration can be electric-powered up to about 20 mph. That's not bad on its own, but the six-speed dual clutch transmission is balky, taking a moment to optimize the power source, it seems, or

being unsure of the optimal balance between motor and engine. It's nothing dangerous or even annoying; it's simply not smooth.

Most hybrids use something like an electronic continuously variable transmission (eCVT), which essentially uses a motor instead of a gearbox. Keeping the accelerator constant results in a dull droning feel. Instead of "shifting," there is a modulated balance of motor and engine power based on throttle position.

The Niro relies on a six-speed dual clutch set up to distribute power from the 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine. The 43-horsepower motor is fitted between the engine and transmission, so the transmission optimizes the 139 total horsepower and, more importantly in a crossover, 195 pound-feet of torque to the front wheels. Since the battery is placed beneath the rear seats, there isn't much room for a second motor on the rear axle for an all-wheel-drive Niro future.

In theory, the Niro should shift like

a normal car, quickly and predictably based on how hard you press the pedal. In actuality, it groans as if to ask why you're pressing the pedal at all, and in our week with the Niro, there was less predictability than a CVT.

Kia designed its hybrid to not act like a hybrid, but the DCT needs a tweak or two to get that seamless power transition touted by the brand.

Otherwise, there's so much to like about this vehicle. It's smartly designed, with a blend of high-strength steel and aluminum helping keep weight down in the Kia Soul range (under 3,300 pounds), despite being 5 inches longer. The top-of-the-line Touring trim comes with Kia's advanced safety and convenience technology, which is easy to use without being too obtrusive. It has ample head and shoulder room, like the Soul, and the 60/40 rear seats can fold flat for an even cargo floor for 54.5 cubic feet of storage, which is more like a large hatchback than a compact crossover. The Prius V has 67.3 cubic

feet with the seats down, in comparison, but the Niro gets 46 mpg city, 3 more mpg than the Prius V.

I was really looking forward to this car, so my disappointment with the graceless powertrain might be as much a product of high expectations as rookie mistakes. The first all-new model by most automakers has kinks to work out that can sometimes be as simple as reflashing the six-speed dual clutch transmission, or retuning how the motor and engine work together as to be somewhat less present in the cabin.

The time may be off for hybrid sales, but that gives Kia a chance to tweak what can be a best-seller once gas prices start to rise. By then, firsts won't matter as much as bests.

Robert Duffer is the editor of the Chicago's Tribune's auto section. Readers may contact him at Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fifth Floor, Chicago IL 60611 or rduffer@chicagotribune.com

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Kia Niro Touring

- **Vehicle type:** Small hybrid crossover
- **Base price:** \$29,650
- **As tested:** \$31,680 (excluding \$895 delivery)
- **EPA MPG:** 46 city, 40 highway
- **Engine:** 1.6-liter 4-cylinder with a 43 hp motor
- **Transmission:** 6-speed dual clutch
- **Parting shot:** Balky transmission undermines Kia's first full-fledged hybrid

Under the Hood: Mechanics want to do all sorts of things to this car

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q I'm in my 70s. I own a 2004 Toyota Corolla 2004, bought it new. I get the oil changed every six months, live in Florida, have 42,000 miles on it. Since 2011 I have changed the tires, cabin air filter, battery and alternator, drive belt and serpentine belt. Now the car works great, no complaints from me except that my usual mechanic wants to replace the water pump, struts, pads and rotors, upper and lower hoses, flush coolant to the cost of \$2,100! I am not noticing any difficulty in the running of the car. So I went to another place for the last change of oil, where the mechanic suggested I replace the tires, the battery and

the cabin air filter, no mention of above.

What do you think? I read your column every week and I see that some people end up spending a lot of money getting things that are not necessary.

A Yikes! Let's take a look at why these services might be needed and perhaps a third inspection/opinion is called for. After 13 years of service it would be nice to give the cooling system some attention. I think flushes are overrated, but hoses and a thorough drain/rinse and refill with appropriate coolant/water is a reasonable thing to do. Water pumps are usually replaced because they leak, make noise, or are a sensible thing to renew at the time of timing belt replacement. Perhaps

your first tech noted leakage? Some staining at the weep hole is normal, but there shouldn't be any signs of actual fluid dripping.

Struts, which contain your shock absorbers, are a tough call. The folks that make replacements recommend renewing them every 50,000 miles. I don't think years make much difference. If yours show no signs of leakage and you don't drive the Corolla under demanding conditions (rough and/or twisty roads), or notice excessive bouncing or tire tread cupping, they can probably go further.

Brake pads are either needed or not, depending on remaining lining thickness or possible damage from overheating or a leaking caliper. Toyota's minimum lining thickness spec is 1 millimeter. I'd recommend changing pads a bit sooner than this

unless the brakes are inspected frequently. You don't want to accidentally grind the pad backs into the rotors.

Any two techs will differ on opinion as the pads wear down into this range. Brake rotors should be straight, not scored or heat-checked, and at least 25 mm thick. I'd tolerate slightly imperfect original rotors of sufficient thickness over frequently junky replacements, were it my car.

Tires should be changed in wet conditions when the tread is worn down to 4/32 inches (groove depth); the legal minimum is 2/32 inches. Wear bars, perpendicular to the tread, also indicate they're at the end of the road. Ten years is also considered to be the age limit for tires. Unless damaged or you drive in high speed/demanding conditions, changing them early doesn't make much sense.

Battery? Unless you've had symptoms (slow cranking, lights dimming at idle, the need to jump start) your second tech may have based his/her recommendation by age alone or conductance test results. Batteries typically last five to eight years in a mild climate, less in really cold or hot areas. Warm weather is an easy time for a battery, while a marginal one can often last until winter.

Cabin air filter replacement is recommended every 30,000 miles. In humid or dusty areas, a change may be needed earlier if odors or low airflow are noted.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Cosby team triumphant, but sex crime retrial, lawsuits loom

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — In one of the more unusual scenes to play out at Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial, the judge questioned Cosby under oath as jury deliberations wore on to be sure he knew the mistrial he sought could lead to a second trial.

Cosby, the actor and comedian known as "America's Dad," turns 80 next month facing just that ordeal. Legal experts believe prosecutors will reshape their case for Round Two, although it's not yet clear why jurors couldn't reach a verdict, or how close they came.

District Attorney Kevin Steele could ask the judge to let more of Cosby's 60 accusers testify or disclose to jurors that accuser Andrea Constand is gay. That never came up in her seven hours of testimony. The defense had hoped, if it did, to introduce evidence she had previously dated a man.

"The key to retrying a case is to do it differently the sec-

ond time, because the defense expects you to do it the same way," said Constand's lawyer, Dolores Troiani.

Constand is on board for the retrial. And Steele on Sunday denied a media report that Cosby had ever been offered a plea deal.

The juror names remain shielded from the public under a protective order that several news outlets have challenged. Judge Steven O'Neill could revisit the issue as early as Monday. He advised jurors when the trial ended, after a week of testimony and 52 hours of deliberations, that they need not discuss the case, even as the public debates whether age, race, gender or other issues separated them.

"It can never be clearer that if you speak up, you could be chilling the justice system in the future if jurors are needed in this case," O'Neill told them.

Criminal law professor Jody Armour wonders if the bitter divide over social issues that's evident in American politics was at work in the jury room.

Cosby judge could revisit issue of revealing names of jurors

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — The names of the jurors who failed to reach a verdict in Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial have not been made public, but the judge in the case could revisit the issue as early as Monday.

The names remain shielded under a protective order that several news outlets have challenged. Judge Steven O'Neill advised jurors when the trial ended on Saturday outside Philadelphia, after a week of testimony and 52 hours of deliberations, that they need not discuss the case, even as the public debates whether age, race, gender or other issues separated them.

"It can never be clearer that if you speak up, you could be chilling the justice system in the future if jurors are needed in this case," O'Neill told them.

Criminal law professor Jody Armour wonders if the bitter divide over social issues that is evident in American politics was at work in the jury room.

"Social attitudes in general affect what happens in criminal trials, in rape cases. We can now wonder if a lot of those kinds of attitudes were at play in ... Bill Cosby's rape case," said Armour, who teaches at the Univer-

sity of South California.

Cosby, the actor and comedian known as "America's Dad," was charged with three felony counts of aggravated indecent assault stemming from Andrea Constand's allegations that he drugged and violated her at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. Cosby, 79, said the encounter was consensual.

Two women jurors looked anguished when they announced the final deadlock, wiping away tears. Other jurors were harder to read. It is not yet clear why jurors could not reach a verdict, or how close they came.

"We get 12 people to agree on sex assault cases all the time, but this is not any case. It's an old case, it's a controversial case, it's a case that involves questions of consent," said professor Laurie Levenson, of Loyola Law School.

Levenson believes the breakdown of the first Cosby jury is important to know, but perhaps not predictive of how the second trial might go.

"Anything can happen because it's a new set of jurors," Levenson said. "The second time around, are they coming with an agenda? Do they want to save Cosby, or do what the first jury couldn't do, which was convict him?"



Bill Cosby listens to his wife Camille's statement being read aloud by Ebonee M. Benson outside the Montgomery County Courthouse after a mistrial in his sexual assault case in Norristown, Pa., Saturday, June 17, 2017.

"Social attitudes in general affect what happens in criminal trials, in rape cases. We can now wonder if a lot of those kinds of attitudes were at play in ... Bill Cosby's rape case," said Armour, who teaches at the Univer-

sity of South California.

Two women jurors who appeared to be in their 30s or 40s looked anguished when they announced the final deadlock, wiping away tears with tissues handed to them by a sympathetic young man sitting be-

tween them. Other jurors were harder to read.

"We get 12 people to agree on sex assault cases all the time, but this is not any case. It's an old case, it's a controversial case, it's a case that involves questions of consent,"

said professor Laurie Levenson, of Loyola Law School.

She once served on a jury where the foreperson was the lone holdout for an acquittal. She also recalled a Los Angeles case where an 11-1 vote to acquit in the first trial ended with a conviction the second time around. She believes the breakdown of the first Cosby jury is important to know, but perhaps not predictive of how the second trial might go.

"Anything can happen because it's a new set of jurors," Levenson said. "The second time around, are they coming with an agenda? Do they want to save Cosby, or do what the first jury couldn't do, which was convict him?"

Cosby is also battling sexual battery or defamation cases still pending by 10 women in California and Massachusetts. Several of them attended the criminal trial with their layers. The discovery in those cases is underway, but his deposition testimony will remain on hold until the retrial in the criminal case.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

† Rosa Taimanao Deleon Guerrero

Born on: May 14, 1949 • Died on: June 14, 2017

In her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: †Alfonso Taimanao / †Gisina S. Taimanao
Brother: †Isiah Maratita,
 †Dionisio Maratita, †Felix U. Ulloa

She will forever be in the hearts of her:
Husband: Jesus A. Deleon Guerrero
Children and Grandchildren:
 Jesus T. / Doris S. Deleon Guerrero and children
 Jeffery T. Deleon Guerrero and children
 Rodney T. Deleon Guerrero and children
 Ray T. Deleon Guerrero and children
 Germaine T. Deleon Guerrero and children
Brothers and Sisters and their spouses:
 Edward S. Taimanao
 George/Lourdes Taimanao
 Carmen Taimanao
 Agnes Taimanao
 Martin/Victoria Taimanao

She is also survived by numerous brothers and sisters-in law and spouses.

Daily Mass is being held at St. Jude Church at 6:00pm and Rosary after mass from June 14 to June 21, 2017. Mass of Christian Burial will be on June 22, 2017, 11:00am and Interment will follow immediately after at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

*Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.
 Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase para todos.*

Ginen I Familia

Kelly presses 'Infowars' host Jones on Sandy Hook denial

NEW YORK (AP)—Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones hemmed and hawed when pressed repeatedly by Megyn Kelly to admit he was wrong to call the massacre at Newtown, Connecticut, a hoax.

Jones never gave a direct answer in a segment on NBC's "Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly." Kelly has been criticized intensely for giving a platform to Jones, who has also called the Sept. 11 attacks an inside job and promoted the false story that a pizza place in Washington, D.C. was the site of a child sex ring.

She has defended her decision by noting that his influence has grown with the rise of President Donald Trump, who has praised Jones and appeared on his radio program.

"Here's the thing, Alex Jones isn't going away," she said Sunday night.

The "Infowars" host said at one point that he was playing "devil's advocate" in denying the 2012 mass shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School. But he added that he remained skeptical after he "watched the footage" of children leaving the building.

"Some of it looks like it's real but then what do you do when they've got the kids go-

ing in circles in and out of the building with their hands up. I've watched the footage," he said. "That looks like a drill."

The segment with Jones combined Kelly's interview with background on his history of false remarks, his relationship with Trump and comments from Newtown parent Neil Heslin, whose 6-year-old son, Jesse Lewis, was killed in the shooting. When Kelly asked him whether he had anything to say to Jones for Father's Day, he responded, "I think he's blessed to have his children to spend the day with, to speak to. I don't have that."

Last week, Jones leaked an audio recording of what he said was a phone conversation with Kelly, heard promising she would not portray him as "some kind of boogeyman." Shortly before Sunday's night interview, Jones released a Father's Day video in which he offered condolences to families who had lost children in the "horrible tragedy" of Newtown, but did not refer to his previous comments disputing the killings.

"Parents should never have to bury their own children,"

Jones said.

Connecticut's NBC affiliate said Friday it wouldn't air the report. In an internal memo obtained by The Associated



Jones



Kelly

Press, NBC Connecticut staff members were told station executives made the decision after listening to concerns from employees, Sandy Hook fami-

lies and viewers and considering "the deep emotions from the wounds of that day that have yet to heal."

Lawyers who represent 12 people who lost loved ones at Sandy Hook urged NBC News officials not to air the interview. NBC News Chairman Andy Lack told the AP that the Jones story would be edited with its critics in mind.

The interview also was seen as a test of the interviewing skills of Kelly, the former Fox News star whose questions two weeks ago for Vladimir Putin were widely panned for being too easy on the Russian leader. An unaired

segment obtained by Huffington Post showed Kelly telling him that "virtually every person we have met on the street says what they respect about you is they feel that you have returned dignity to Russia."

Kelly challenged Jones from the start, introducing him as a "radical conspiracy theorist" and promising to confront him on his "notorious lie" about Sandy Hook. The two frequently interrupted each other as Kelly kept asking if he would admit to his wrongdoing and a visibly tense Jones kept deflecting her questions, blaming the media for distorting his remarks or veering between acknowledg-

ing and disputing the tragedy.

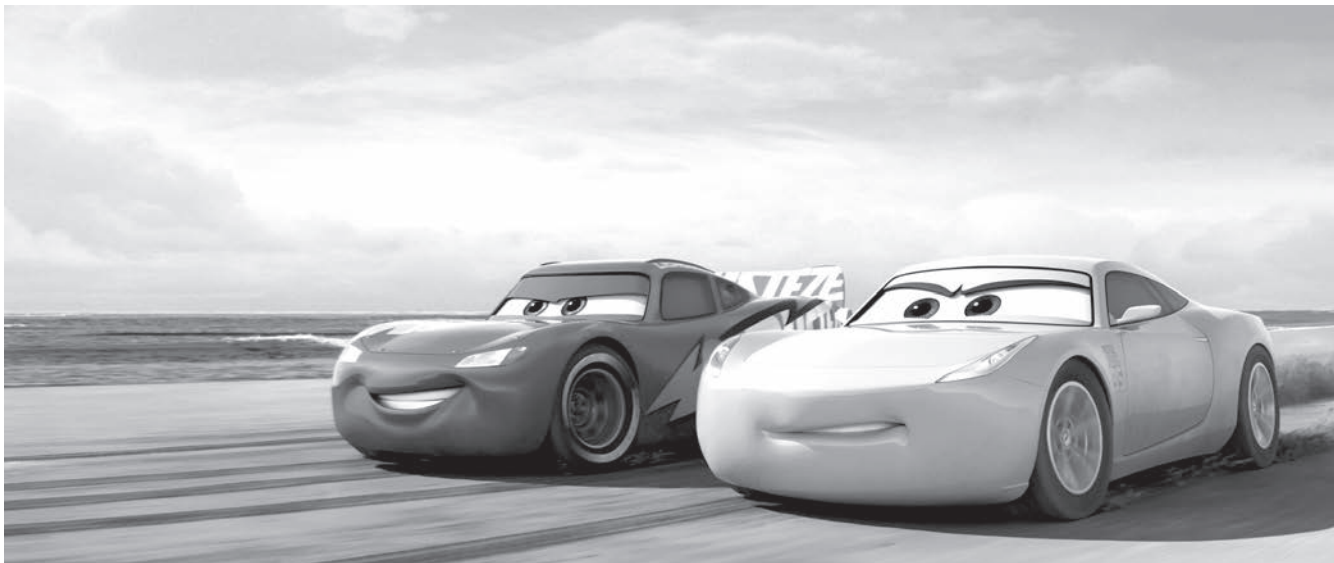
"I will sit there on the air and look at every position and play devil's advocate," he said.

Answered Kelly: "Of course, there is no evidence on the other side."

Jones also downplayed his connection to Trump, who has spoken warmly of him and at times seemed to use conspiracies aired on Infowars in his campaign speeches.

"I think my influence on Trump is way, way lower than what MSM (mainstream media) has said," he commented, saying he and the president were "friendly," but not friends.

'Cars 3' speeds to No. 1, Tupac biopic nets strong debut



This image released by Disney shows Lightning McQueen, voiced by Owen Wilson, left, and Cruz Ramirez, voiced by Cristela Alonzo in a scene from "Cars 3."

Native Americans walk out of musical depicting stereotypes

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP)—The University of Wyoming is warning audiences about offensive material in a traveling musical after Native American high school students walked out of a performance of "The Fantasticks."

The walkout happened Thursday during intermission, The Laramie Boomerang reported. It wasn't clear how many students attending the Native American Summer Institute at the campus in Laramie walked out of the show.

The 1960 musical, which is about two neighboring fathers who trick their children into falling in love by pretending to feud, contains a scene in which characters dress up as and villainize Native Americans. Attendees said they were also shocked at the casual use of the word "rape" in the musical's dialogue.

The walkout prompted criticism from UW's United Multicultural Council and a boycott by another summer camp. The Upward Bound group canceled plans to attend Saturday's performance the Department of Theater and Dance.

"The show especially demeans Native American cultures with outdated stereotypes of Native American appropriation by non-native

actors wearing headdresses/warbonnets," according to a statement by the United Multicultural Council. "It also portrays Native American and Latino/Hispanic characters as the villains or antagonists of the show."

The university prepared a program insert for future performances explaining the scene.

"With historical productions, we see a 'point in time,' which is different from the one in which we live," the insert reads. "We see portrayals of characters that are painful to watch as 21st century audiences. The challenge then, in producing historical works, is to help audiences understand the context and/or story for the play without taking undue or illegal liberties with the script."

The long-running musical, a staple of regional, community and high school theater, plays in four different Wyoming communities this week before closing next weekend in Laramie. The musical, which features the songs "Try To Remember" and "Soon It's Gonna Rain," closed earlier this month in New York City, having played a total of 21,552 performances in the capital of American theater.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Wonder Woman" fell to second place in its third weekend in theaters, but it's still doing the heavy lifting for the otherwise lackluster summer box office.

While many worn-out franchises and franchise hopefuls continue to struggle to find a significant North American audience, smaller films such as the Tupac biopic "All Eyez on Me" and the shark thriller "47 Meters Down" were able to break through the clutter and make a splash this weekend.

As expected, the third installment in Disney and Pixar's \$1 billion "Cars" franchise easily took the top spot, but its estimated \$53.5 million in earnings told a more complicated tale.

"Cars 3" had the worst opening in the series' history—"Cars" opened to \$60.1 million and "Cars 2" to \$66.1 million—and it was one of the lowest debut totals for the Pixar brand.

It was also a disappointment compared with the top films over this weekend in 2015 and 2016, noted comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

A year ago, Pixar's "Finding Dory" debuted with \$135.1 million. In 2015, Ju-

1. **"Cars 3,"** \$53.5 million (\$21.3 million international).
2. **"Wonder Woman,"** \$40.8 million (\$39.5 million international).
3. **"All Eyez on Me,"** \$27.1 million (\$3.1 million international).
4. **"The Mummy,"** \$13.9 million (\$53 million international).
5. **"47 Meters Down,"** \$11.5 million.
6. **"Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales,"** \$8.5 million (\$18.8 million international).
7. **"Rough Night,"** \$8.1 million (\$4.2 million international).
8. **"Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie,"** \$7.4 million (\$1.2 million international).
9. **"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2,"** \$5 million (\$1.2 million international).
10. **"It Comes At Night,"** \$2.6 million.

rassic World" raked in \$106.6 million in its second weekend.

"That kind of tells you the state of the industry," Dergarabedian said.

The G-rated "Cars 3" got an "A" CinemaScore and gener-

ally positive reviews, but it will have to contend with "Despicable Me 3" which opens in two weeks.

"Wonder Woman" was knocked down to second place with \$40.8 million, bringing its domestic total to \$274.6 million, while holdover "The Mummy" slid to fourth place in weekend two with \$13.9 million.

"It's been a challenging summer. I always say it comes down to product. Are the movies grabbing people?" Dergarabedian said. "Before 'Wonder Woman' we were about 9 percent behind last summer. We're now at about even, but the industry would like to see better than even."

Amid the doldrums, lower-profile films were able to make a mark. The longtime-coming Tupac biopic "All Eyez on Me" earned \$27.1 million to take third place on the charts.

Despite largely negative reviews, audiences gave the film an "A-" CinemaScore. Lionsgate's Codeblack division marketed the pic, which cost Morgan Creek Productions around \$40 million to produce. It opened to coincide with what would have been the late rapper's 46th birthday

on June 16.

"It's always nice to exceed expectations," said David Spitz, the president of theatrical distribution for Lionsgate.

The Mandy Moore shark thriller "47 Meters Down" also exceeded low expectations, earning \$11.5 million for a fifth place start. A "C" CinemaScore, however, could mean the pic is dead in the water going forward.

The raunchy R-rated comedy "Rough Night" is also facing some rough waters ahead with its ghastly "C+" CinemaScore. The film, about a bachelorette party weekend gone wrong, starring Scarlett Johansson, Kate McKinnon and Jillian Bell, took in a paltry \$8.1 million against a \$20 million production budget.

"Rough Night" opened in seventh place, behind "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales," which brought in \$8.5 million. The fifth "Pirates" film has earned \$150.1 million domestically and \$500 million internationally.

Next week, another fifth installment—"Transformers: The Last Knight"—opens. Dergarabedian expects it follow suit with most of the summer's franchises and earn the bulk of its money abroad.

Reports swirl about Beyonce's twins, but no confirmation yet



AP

In this Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017, file photo, Beyonce poses in the press room with the awards for best music video for "Formation" and best urban contemporary album for "Lemonade" at the 59th annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Are Beyonce and Jay Z parents again?

Mum's the word from the parents and their reps, even though reports are flying that the much-anticipated twins have made their arrival.

Several outlets have published reports with no official

confirmation. Even Beyonce's father, with whom she has had a strained relationship, tweeted congrats Sunday.

Beyonce and Jay Z are usually tight-lipped about their personal lives and waited years to release footage of their wedding and weeks to confirm the birth of daughter

Blue Ivy, who is now 5.

They announced she was pregnant with twins in an Instagram post in February. The pregnancy forced Beyonce to bow out of the Coachella music festival in April.

Representatives did not respond to requests for comment.

Protesters again storm 'Julius Caesar' performance

NEW YORK (AP)—Protesters again have stormed the stage of a New York production of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," which depicts a Trump look-alike character being assassinated.

Police say 26-year-old Javanni Valle, of Brooklyn, and 28-year-old Salvatore Cipolla, of Oceanside, Long Island,

were arrested on trespassing and disorderly conduct charges Sunday evening during the Public Theater production's last performance in Central Park.

Information on their lawyers wasn't available. The two were given desk appearance tickets.

Apparent video of the incident shows a man rushing the

stage shouting "Liberal hate kills!" and "Goebbels will be proud!" before he is grappled by security and pulled away.

On Friday, a 24-year-old activist was arrested after she rushed the stage shouting "Stop leftist violence!"

Both Delta and Bank of America both pulled their sponsorship of the Public Theater.

Prince Harry says he locked away his emotions when mom died

TORONTO (AP)—Britain's Prince Harry says he avoided dealing with his emotions after the death of his mother, Princess Diana.

The 32-year-old prince said in an interview aired on Canada's CTV television network Friday that he lost "my mom when I was 12 so emotions were locked away very, very early on."

Harry paid tribute to his mother, saying she was passionate about caring for everybody. Now he's following her example as he promotes the Invictus Games for wounded veterans scheduled

for Toronto this September.

He said everyone should "take their hats off to her because she drew a spotlight to the causes and the issues that no one wanted to talk about."

Diana made headlines in the late 1980s with her handshake with a man stricken with AIDS.

"You know good on her. And at the age of 36, you know, she was, she was taken away," Harry said.

The prince told The Daily Telegraph in interview published last month that he "shut down all his emotions" for nearly 20 years and had been "very close to a complete

breakdown on numerous occasions." In that interview, he described a long, painful process of refusing to face his sense of loss that only came to an end when he was in his late 20s and sought professional counseling to cope with the pressures and unhappiness.

In the CTV interview, he said it is important to ask for help. "It is a sign of strength, it is a sign of bravery to ask for help," he said.

Harry, who served in the British army, created the Invictus Games as a way to inspire and motivate wounded soldiers on their path to recovery.



AP

Britain's Prince Harry takes part in a round-table scenario exercise for "Effective landmine clearance in a humanitarian emergency" during his visit to Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, in London, Thursday, June 15, 2017.

Blondie's Debbie Harry reigns over NYC's Mermaid Parade

NEW YORK (AP)—Debbie Harry and Chris Stein of the new wave band Blondie reigned over a waterlogged edition of New York City's zany Mermaid Parade.

The rockers known for songs like "Rapture" and "Heart of Glass" were Mermaid Queen

and King Neptune at Saturday's parade at Coney Island. Crowds cheered as they were wheeled along the parade route in a wicker chair.

Drenching rain greeted the parade-goers dressed as mermaids, fish and other aquatic

creatures. The downpour let up by the end of the festivities.

One group in red costumes carried a banner that said "The Handmermaids of Gillead." The reference was to the Hulu series and Margaret Atwood book "The Handmaid's Tale."

Friend finds gender fluidity a hard concept to swallow

DEAR ABBY: I have a longtime friend I see almost every day. She's an awesome friend. Her children are adults. One of them is gay; the other is a transgender male. I respect her for supporting her children, learning everything there is to know about the LGBT community and seeking social change on their behalf.

The conflict lies in the fact that my religious beliefs and personal feelings are at odds with the notion of gender fluidity. I think the concept is nuts. I have compassion, however, for people who suffer with their identity in any form. I also believe in equal rights.

I do support my friend, who supports her kids, but I feel like a fraud when she and her friends talk about gender neutrality and vent their indignation that someone called someone else by the wrong pronoun. I act equally offended, but the truth is, I don't believe in these ideas or this cause.

I don't want to lose an important friend. I want her to feel supported—but I'm lying. Please help. My conscience is bothering me.

FEELING LIKE A PHONY

DEAR "PHONY": Would you feel the same way about a friend who is divorced, if your religion didn't sanction it? I'll bet you wouldn't. The same is true for this longtime friend.

Gender fluidity may be a new concept for you, but it is

very real. If you feel like a hypocrite faking indignation during some of these conversations, why not use them as an opportunity to be educated? Listen. Ask questions. Say, "I don't know enough about this, but because I love you, I need to learn more about it."

You can be a trans ally without becoming an activist. PFLAG has a user-friendly resource, "Guide to Being a Trans Ally," that you may find interesting and helpful. Find it at pflag.org/guidetobeingatransally.

DEAR ABBY: An 8-year-old boy in my daughter's class recently passed away. She's only in second grade, so I wouldn't expect her to fully grasp the meaning of death, but she understands it perfectly and is not upset one bit. Multiple times she has acknowledged the fact that her classmate is no longer present, and is actually somewhat cheerful about it. My husband and I are very worried. Is this normal behavior?

CONCERNED MOTHER

DEAR CONCERNED: Children are often more resilient than they are given credit for. If your daughter wasn't particularly close to the child who died, his death may not have affected her deeply. Some children do not mourn the way adults do, and you should not expect her to.

Grief counselors may have spoken to the students about

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



it, or they may have been given other opportunities to air their feelings. Because you are concerned, discuss this with her teacher, but I don't think you have anything to be worried about.

DEAR ABBY: What do you make of a host who issues a BYOB invitation to his party and then proceeds to drink the guests' liquor?

APPALLED IN FLORIDA

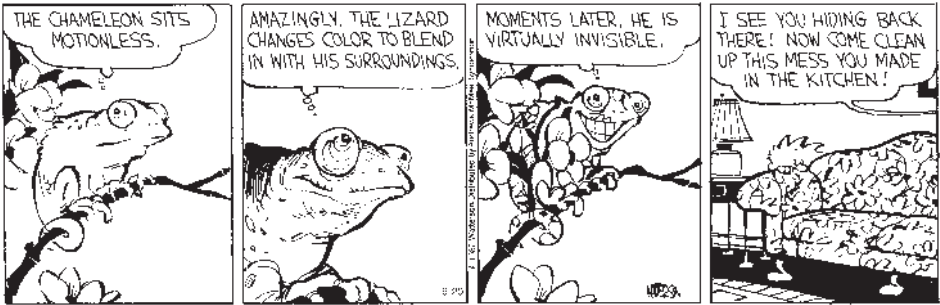
DEAR APPALLED: I'd say he was thirsty.

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Pastimes

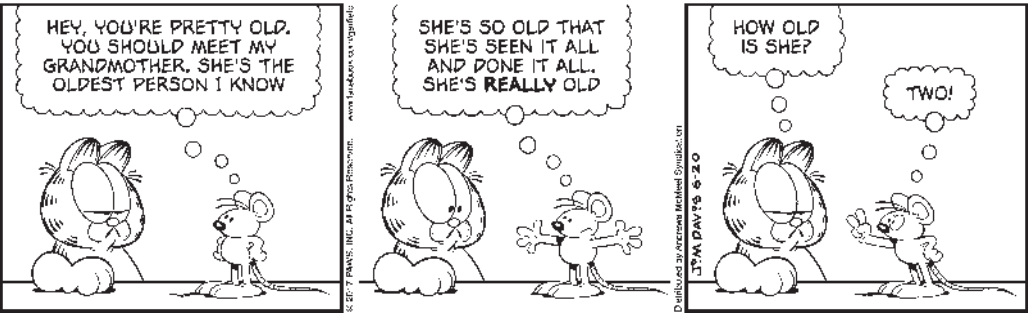
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



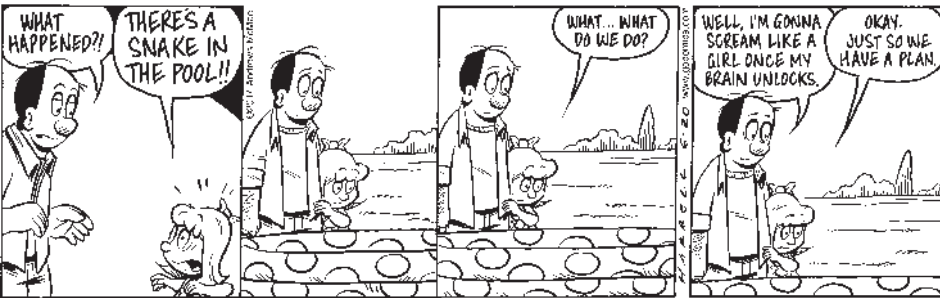
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Regretted

5 "Nova" airer

8 "La Boheme" role

12 "— girl!"

13 Feedbag bit

14 Dutch cheese

15 Rural tract

16 Cinemas

18 Minotaur slayer

20 Bas-relief medium

21 Sounds of hesitation

22 Corp. boss

23 Uses an egg-beater

26 Lunchbox flask

30 Listener

31 Dead heat

32 Biblical boat

33 British Prime Minister — May

36 Loser to Truman

38 Actress Longoria

39 Couple's pronoun

40 Shade of black

43 Counseling

47 Seminary study

49 On the briny

50 Luke's teacher

51 Compete

52 Cash drawer

53 Kept tabs on

54 Condi-tions

55 Pot starter

3 French 101 verb

4 Obstructs

5 VIP on

6 Air Force One

6 Scrooge's cries

7 Sault — Marie

8 Falling star

9 Mid-month date

10 Red Planet

11 "Excited" (Pointer Sisters hit)

17 Screen-writer James

19 Type measures

22 "Evita" narrator

23 Drench

24 Taunting laugh

25 Rage

26 Spanish aunt

27 Gullet

28 Raw rock

29 Blue hue

31 Airport screening org.

34 Insert another cannon-ball

35 Daring Knieval

36 Expected

37 Mistakes in print

39 "But of course!"

40 Eyelid woe

41 "Hi, sailor!"

42 Eliot's "Adam —"

43 End-of-wk. cry

44 B — boy

45 Hide

46 Harvard rival

48 Egg (Pref.)

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterdays answer 6-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alisan Porter, 36; Nicole Kidman, 50; John Goodman, 65; Lionel Richie, 68.

Happy Birthday: Stabilize your finances and take more time to ensure that you are living a healthy lifestyle. It's time to incorporate more exercise and better eating habits into your daily routine. Preparation will be the key to reaching your goals. There is no quick route to success, but if you are willing to put in the time, you will reap the rewards. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 27, 33, 46, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Experience life firsthand. Don't trust what others tell you. Data and evidence should be the determining factors in the choices you make. They will spare you being misled and alleviate an argument that isn't necessary. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be perceptive when dealing with both personal and work-related matters. Observe how others respond and you'll instinctively know how to handle situations to deter anyone from trying to one-up you. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do whatever it takes to reach your destination. Be the one who drives yourself to the finish line. It's important to delve into all the possibilities in order to get a clear picture of what's possible and what isn't. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make things happen. Take some initiative and show a little backbone. Controlling whatever you want to do will ensure that you don't go over budget or let someone else cost you emo-

tionally, financially or legally. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do your best to help those in need. Your outpouring of knowledge, experience and compassion will change the way your peers look at you. Don't make personal changes to your health, appearance or the way you handle domestic affairs. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Avoid what everyone else says and head in a direction that emphasizes personal growth, spirituality and physical strength and courage. There is much to be gained if you work on self-improvement. Love and peace are encouraged. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Home improvements can be accomplished if you do some of the work yourself. Don't get into a senseless argument with someone when compromise is all it takes to keep moving forward. Use your intelligence and you will keep the peace. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make plans with someone you love. A day trip, rearranging or making changes at home are all good places to start. Sharing your feelings and letting someone special know how much you care about them will improve your life. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think twice before you get involved with someone from your past. Social media can lead to negative as well as positive memories. Be sure you want to reconnect with someone before accepting his or her invitation. Protect your heart. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Personal developments look promising. Put more effort into your relationship with someone you love. A little romance will help you avert negativity from someone who feels neglected. Share your plans for the future. Spruce up your appearance. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may want to make personal physical changes to your appearance, but it will be best to hold off. Don't let anyone convince you to spend money on something you don't need or that promises to do the impossible. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let added responsibilities deter you from taking care of personal matters. Make changes that will help you be more understanding of what's expected of you. Don't fold under pressure or give in to demands. ****

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, intense and purposeful. You are original and compassionate.

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SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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Yesterdays Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HEAVY DRAFT HORSES

Solution: 14 letters

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Ardenes, Bashkir, Belgian, Breed, Breton, Bridge, Carts, Clydesdale, Cold-blooded, Conformation, Dole, Dutch, Fast, Finner, Friesian, Gentle, Haffinger, Heavy, Hoof, Labor, Land, Loads, Mane, Muscular, Muzzle, Noriker, Pinto, Polish, Power, Recreation, Ride, Shire, Shoes, Show, Size, Strength, Train, Vladimir, Weight, Withers, Working

Yesterdays Answer: Y'all

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Long road: Koepka's journey now includes a US Open title

ERIN, Wis. (AP)—The list of places Brooks Koepka had to go to win golf tournaments looks like a page straight out of a travelogue.

Spain. Scotland. Turkey. Japan.

On Sunday, he added Erin Hills in Wisconsin to the list—the stop that made all those frequent flier miles worth it.

The 27-year-old American, who had to leave his home country and join Europe's minor-league tour to get his career going, won the U.S. Open. He set aside the wind and the pressure to subdue Erin Hills after it finally got some teeth following three rounds of soft greens and prime scoring conditions.

The wind kicked up, but it didn't faze Koepka. He shot 5-under par and made only one bogey to finish at 16-under 272. That was four shots clear of Hideki Matsuyama and Brian Harman. The only drama at the end was whether he'd make birdie on the par-5 18th to break Rory McIlroy's scoring record in relation to par.

Koepka settled for a tap-in par, but that didn't matter. He earned \$2.16 million, his nation's championship and the comfort of knowing the far-flung trips to Kenya and Kazakhstan and India and beyond are all in the rear-view mirror.

"To get to travel the world at 22, 21 years old, and do what you do for a living is pretty neat," Koepka said. "I'll go anywhere. ... I think it helped me grow up a little bit and really figure out that, hey, play golf, get it done, and then you can really take this somewhere. And I built a lot of confidence off of that."

His confidence in the final round came, in part, from a



AP
Brooks Koepka poses with the winning trophy after the U.S. Open golf tournament Sunday, June 18, 2017, at Erin Hills in Erin, Wis.

longest in U.S. Open history—and the fescue lining the fairways was brutal. But the fairways were generous and the wind that serves as the course's best defense didn't kick up until the end.

"It would be a lot of fun to see this place firm and fast," Fowler said.

Hard to think it would've bothered Koepka, who has seen a lot.

Upon getting out of Florida State, he was without a card on any tour, so went onto the Challenge Tour, which is Europe's version of the Web.com Tour.

Asked about the low point, he said it came one night in Scotland when he called his agent and said he wanted to come home.

"I was kind of, I don't want to say homesick, it was just, tired of golf. Tired of traveling. I just wanted to be home," he said.

He won that tournament, made it to the regular European Tour, and then made it home to the PGA Tour. He came into the U.S. Open with one Ryder Cup appearance under his belt, and three top-five finishes in majors. More than worrying about the uncertainty of his career, he was trying to figure a way to close one of these big ones out.

He did it. Now, his journey includes a victory in Wisconsin—in the U.S. Open, no less.

"I'd love to get a map and just look at all the places I've won," Koepka said. "It's pretty cool."

short conversation the night before with Dustin Johnson, a friend who had been through his share of close calls and heartbreaks before finally becoming a major champion at the U.S. Open last year.

Take the shots one at a time, Johnson told him.

Turns out, they think pretty much the same. Play the same, too.

"He's going to overpower golf courses, and he's got a great demeanor," said Bill Haas, who finished tied for fifth. "He's just like Dustin, I

would say. They're very much a similar player, where nothing seems to bother them. And it's no surprise."

Tied for the lead with six holes left, Koepka made an 8-foot par putt on 13 that gave him confidence in his putting stroke. He followed that up with birdies on the next three holes.

Only Matsuyama displayed that kind of scoring ability Sunday. But he started the day

six shots out of the lead. His round of 66 was over nearly 90 minutes before Koepka strolled to the 18th green, with the tournament all but wrapped up.

"I learned a lot this week," Matsuyama said. "Hopefully, though, in the future, in majors, I can play in the either last or next-to-last group to give myself a better chance."

Other than him, nobody made a charge.

Rickie Fowler and Justin Thomas were the popular favorites. But Thomas followed his record-setting 63 with a 75, and his hopes were essentially dashed after three bogeys over the first five holes. Fowler shot 72 and finished at 10 under, in a tie for fifth. It's a score that would've won all but two of the previous 116 renditions of the U.S. Open.

But not this one.

Erin Hills never quite shaped up as the exacting, U.S. Open-type course it could have been. It was long—the

AP Sources: George informs Pacers he will leave in 2018

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



The Indiana Pacers' timeline for making a decision on star forward Paul George just kicked into overdrive.

George's camp has informed the Pacers that the four-time All-Star intends to leave in the summer of 2018 when he becomes a free agent, two people with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Sunday night. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because neither side publicly discusses unresolved personnel matters.

George has spent all seven of his NBA seasons in Indiana, emerging as one of the league's top players. He averaged a career-high 23.7 points

and shot 46 percent last season, but the seventh-seeded Pacers were swept by Cleveland in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs. The steady decline in competitiveness of the franchise, and LeBron James' dominance of the conference, has led George to look elsewhere as he nears free agency next summer.

The Pacers' chances of keeping George also took a big hit when he was not voted to one of the three All-NBA teams after this season. Had he been voted in, George would have qualified for a super-max contract worth about \$210 million over five years, a staggering sum that may have been too much to turn down. Instead, the Pacers are able to offer him around \$177 million.

George's declaration puts the Pacers on the spot. They

can either try to trade him this summer in hopes of getting a package of players and draft picks that can at least help them try to make up for the loss of a foundational star, or they can try to keep him for this season, make some other moves around him to improve the roster and hope they can change his mind.

It's quite a test for Kevin Pritchard, who took over as the chief decision-maker in the Pacers front office after Larry Bird abruptly stepped down after the season concluded. Pritchard is well-respected across the league and has considerable experience from his time running the show in Portland. He also spent several years under Bird in Indiana, which gives him the familiarity of the roster and George to make an informed decision.

Complicating matters is the widely held belief across the league that George wants to return to his native California to play for the Los Angeles Lakers. That means any team other than the Lakers that makes a play for George this summer runs the risk of giving up considerable assets for a one-year rental. That could force the Pacers to push their asking price down after resisting significant offers from the Boston Celtics at the trade deadline in February.

Yahoo! Sports first reported that George's camp made his feelings known to the Pacers on Sunday.

Word of George's intentions spread quickly across the league and is sure to solicit inquiries. A player of George's caliber—dynamic and versatile on offense and accomplished

on defense—can be a game-changer for several teams trying to find a way to stay competitive with the star-studded Golden State Warriors.

The Warriors just won their second championship in three seasons, and their addition of Kevin Durant last summer gave them four All-Stars on a super team that showed few weaknesses while going 16-1 in the playoffs.

With his ability to play multiple positions, defend and shoot the 3-pointer, George is just the kind of player who could give the Warriors fits. So teams near the top like the Cleveland Cavaliers, who have faced the Warriors each of the last three seasons in the NBA Finals, could see adding him as the missing piece to being able to match up across the board.

The risk any team takes is losing him after one season. But the Cavaliers have walked out

on that limb before, trading No. 1 overall pick Andrew Wiggins to Minnesota in 2014 so they could land All-Star Kevin Love, another player many thought was destined to head to California when he became a free agent. Love teamed with James and Kyrie Irving to help the Cavs reach three straight finals and signed a five-year, \$110 million maximum contract to remain in Cleveland in 2015.

The Pacers could still roll the dice and try to convince George to remain with the only team for which he has played. Just last week, at his celebrity softball game, George told reporters that "I'm under contract as a Pacer. That's all that needs to really be known. I'm here. I'm a Pacer. Again, what I've been dealing with is stories. You guys talking or teams talking. I'm a Pacer. There's no way around that. This is my team, my group and this is where I'm at."



CINCINNATI (AP) — Japanese

pitcher Kenta Maeda (5-3) pitched five strong innings and drove in two runs, Logan Forsythe and Justin Turner homered, and Kike Hernandez made a spectacular game-saving catch to help Los Angeles hold on to beat Cincinnati 8-7 in Major League Baseball on Sunday.

Cincinnati nearly rallied all the way back from an 8-1 deficit in the sixth inning. However, Hernandez went back to the left-field wall and made an awkward leaping grab of Joey Votto's attempt at a go-ahead extra-base hit with runners on first and third in the eighth.

Kenley Jansen got the last three outs for his 15th save.

Bronson Arroyo (3-6), who was roughed up for nine runs and a career-high 13 hits in his last start at San Diego, lasted only three innings against the Dodgers, giving up five runs and seven hits.

Rockies 7, Giants 5

In Denver, Nolan Arenado completed the cycle with a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning, and the Colorado Rockies stunned the San Francisco Giants by rallying for this victory.

Arenado hit the first pitch he saw from All-Star closer Mark Melancon (1-2) into the left-field seats to finish a four-game sweep. The slugger was mobbed at home plate by teammates, with a frenzied sellout crowd chanting "MVP! MVP!"

With the best record in the National League, the surprising Rockies have won five straight overall and nine in a row against the Giants.

Last-place San Francisco has dropped six consecutive games and nine of 11.

Melancon retired his first batter, but three singles produced a run and brought up Arenado, who tripled in the first, singled in the fourth and had an RBI double in the sixth. He hit a 91 mph fastball for his 15th homer and first career cycle.

Carlos Estevez (4-0), called up from the minors before the game, struck out one batter in the ninth for the win.

Indians 5, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Edwin Encarnacion homered twice, Trevor Bauer pitched seven strong innings and Jose Ramirez had his sixth straight multihit game as Cleveland completed a four-game sweep of Minnesota.

Cleveland came into the series trailing the Twins by two games in the AL Central. The sweep vaulted the Indians two games ahead and gave the defending AL champions sole possession of first place in the division for the first time since May 10.

Maeda helps Dodgers beat Reds, 8-7



The Dodgers' hits a two-run double against the Reds on Sunday in Cincinnati. Los Angeles won 8-7.

AP

Bauer (6-5) allowed two runs and four hits with two walks and eight strikeouts. He retired 15 straight before hitting Kennys Vargas with a pitch in the seventh. Eduardo Escobar and Eddie Rosario followed with RBI hits to put Minnesota on the board.

Kyle Gibson (4-5) retired nine straight before Encarnacion hit a 443-foot drive to the second deck in left field to put Cleveland on top 1-0 in the third.

Cubs 7, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, John Lackey and three relievers combined on a three-hitter, and Anthony Rizzo homered among his three hits to lead Chicago past Pittsburgh.

The defending World Series champions took two of three in Pittsburgh and improved to 34-34 this season.

Lackey (5-7) allowed two hits and struck out four over six innings. Carl Edwards Jr., Hector Rondon and Brian Duenes finished up for the Cubs.

The first four Chicago runs came against Jameson Taillon (3-2), who made his second start since returning from surgery to treat testicular cancer. Taillon gave up eight hits in five innings while striking out four.

Athletics 4, Yankees 3

In Oakland, California, Khris Davis hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the third that held up to back rookie Jharel Cotton's first victory since May 4, as Oakland completed a four-game sweep of slumping New York.

New York welcomed back flame-throwing closer Aroldis

Chapman but still lost its season-high sixth straight game following a six-game winning streak, finishing a disappointing 1-6 road trip with a weekend dud against the American League's worst team.

Cotton (4-7) struck out six over 6 1/3 innings for his second-longest start of the season.

Luis Cessa (0-1) allowed four runs and five hits in four innings for New York.

Diamondbacks 5, Phillies 4, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Rey Fuentes hit his first major league home run in the 10th inning, lifting Arizona over Philadelphia.

Fuentes entered in the eighth inning as a pinch runner and was caught stealing. However, the rookie redeemed himself with a homer off Jeanmar Gomez (3-2) with one out in the 10th.

Hector Neris entered with a 4-3 lead in the ninth and failed to pick up a save for the second time in eight chances.

Archie Bradley (3-1) pitched a scoreless ninth, stranding a pair of baserunners. Fernando Rodney earned his 20th save in 23 chances.

Brewers 2, Padres 1

In Milwaukee, Jimmy Nelson struck out 10 in his first career complete game and Milwaukee got home runs from Hernan Perez and Manny Pina to edge San Diego on Sunday.

Nelson (5-3) allowed six hits and two walks while throwing 118 pitches in his 89th major league start. He gave up only an unearned run and lowered his ERA to 3.28.

Leading off the sixth in-

ning, Perez hit his 10th home run into the Brewers' bullpen off starter Luis Perdomo (1-4). One batter later, Pina connected on a 1-2 pitch for his fourth of the season to give Milwaukee a 2-1 lead.

Orioles 8, Cardinals 5

In Baltimore, Ubaldo Jimenez was stellar in his first start since May 22 and Mark Trumbo homered for the second consecutive day as Baltimore beat St. Louis.

Baltimore homered 10 times while winning two of three against the Cardinals to improve to .500 (34-34). It was the first time the Orioles won a three-game series since May 29-31 against the Yankees.

Jimenez (2-2) will likely stay in the rotation after allowing two runs and four hits with three strikeouts and two walks over seven innings. Brad Brach picked up his 12th save for Baltimore.

St. Louis' Lance Lynn (5-4) allowed seven runs and nine hits with five strikeouts and a career-high four home runs over 4 2/3 innings.

Rays 9, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Logan Morrison homered twice and Steven Souza Jr. hit his first career grand slam as Tampa Bay beat Detroit to split a four-game series.

Derek Norris and Evan Longoria also homered for the Rays. Jake Faria (3-0) allowed one run, six hits and a walk in seven innings. He struck out a career-high nine.

Buck Farmer (2-1) allowed seven runs in 2 1/3 innings, and has allowed 13 runs in 4 2/3 innings over his last two starts.

Mariners 7, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, Kyle Seager drove in three runs with three doubles and Christian Bergman pitched effectively into the sixth inning to help Seattle beat Texas.

Danny Valencia's two-run homer capped a four-run first against Texas right-hander Yu Darvish (6-5), whom the Mariners beat for the first time in eight tries on the road.

Bergman (4-4) permitted four hits and two runs in 5 2/3 innings after giving up nine runs in 2 2/3 innings in his last start in Minnesota.

Mets 5, Nationals 1

In New York, Jacob deGrom hit his first major league home run and shut down a bruising Washington lineup on three singles for eight dominant innings, giving New York a win that prevented a four-game sweep.

The NL East-leading Nationals had been 6-0 at Citi Field this season and had battered the Mets in three games this week, never trailing while totaling 18 extra-base hits. But they had trouble touching the blue-stitched balls — used all around Major League Baseball on Father's Day — thrown by deGrom (6-3).

A career .199 hitter in 176 at-bats coming in, deGrom also provided the biggest jolt. He hit the first pitch of the third inning from Joe Ross (3-3) over the wall in left-center.

Blue Jays 7, White Sox 3

In Toronto, Kendrys Morales and Russell Martin each hom-

ered to help Toronto beat Chicago.

Martin tied the game in the sixth with his seventh home run of the season, a two-run shot to the center field fence that bounced off the glove of outfielder Willy Garcia and over. Ryan Goins tripled home Steve Pearce against Anthony Swarzak (3-2) for the tiebreaking run two batters later.

J.A. Happ (2-4) picked up his first home win of the season, giving up three runs over 6 2/3 innings.

Braves 5, Marlins 4

In Atlanta, Brandon Phillips' single drove in Johan Camargo from third base in the ninth inning to give Atlanta a win over Miami.

It was the second straight game-ending hit for Phillips, whose run-scoring single in the 10th gave Atlanta an 8-7 victory Saturday.

Camargo hit a one-out infield single off Drew Steckenrider (0-1) and moved to third on Ender Inciarte's line-drive single up the middle.

Jim Johnson (5-1) pitched a scoreless ninth.

Royals 7, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Jason Vargas earned his 10th win, the most in the majors, and Salvador Perez hit a three-run homer as Kansas City beat Los Angeles.

Mike Moustakas had a three-run double for the Royals, who went 7-2 on their California trip and scored at least seven runs in six of those victories.

Vargas (10-3) gave up three runs and eight hits in six innings, and Kelvin Herrera got two outs for his 15th save. JC Ramirez (6-5) allowed five runs in three innings.

Red Sox 6, Astros 5

In Houston, Xander Bogaerts went deep twice for the first multihomer game of his career and had four RBIs to lead the Boston Red Sox to victory over the Houston Astros.

Bogaerts had just two homers entering Sunday's game. He ended an 0-for-14 skid when he connected off Joe Musgrove (4-6) to make it 1-0 with two outs in the first inning.

A two-run shot by Bogaerts in the sixth put the Red Sox up 3-2. Jackie Bradley Jr. added a two-run double later that inning.

Houston cut the lead to 5-4 with homers from Jake Marisnick and George Springer in the sixth, but an RBI single by Bogaerts added an insurance run in the seventh.

David Price (2-1) got the win despite tying a season high by allowing eight hits with three runs and three walks in five-plus innings. Craig Kimbrel allowed one hit in a scoreless ninth for his 20th save.

Today is the final registration for the 2017 Tagaman 51.50 Triathlon that will hit the road this Saturday.

Registration fees are \$180 for solo and \$300 for team. Riders are also reminded to exercise caution while on the roads Saturday morning. This year's race will begin at 6am with a 1.5K swim leg at Kanoa Resort Saipan, the official hotel of the event. By 7am, bikers will begin transitioning at Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe and make the 40K bike course to Banzai Cliff and back to Beach Road

and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road. One lane of traffic will be closed both ways. The 10K run will be from Minatchom Atdao to the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

"We encourage the community to come out to Kanoa Resort and along the course to cheer for and encourage racers," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "This is a great way to show our local island hospitality to our visitors. Most especially we ask all drivers to drive slow and

Final registration for Tagaman today

carefully while along the race course Saturday morning."

So far, 102 competitors have registered for the event and they are from Korea, Russia, Japan, Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippines, USA, and the Marianas. Pro athletes confirmed to return are Kaon Cho of Korea, Alexandr Dorovskikh of Russia, and Joseph Miller of the Philippines. Newcomers in the pro women's field are Leanne Szeto and Tsang Ka Hung of



From left Jay Diyco, Ricky Castro, Emily Northrop, and MARPAC's James Lee pose with Budweiser products after the donation turnover ceremony at the company's office in Middle Road. MARPAC and Budweiser are supporters of Tagaman Triathlon that will be held this Saturday.

Cowboys star Dez Bryant now elder statesman for receivers

FRISCO, Texas (AP)—Dez Bryant rattled off names of teammates who have been on the Dallas roster longer than the star receiver, correctly stopping at four.

The guy who once rejected tradition by refusing to carry veteran receiver Roy Williams' pads when he was a rookie seven years ago is now 28 and the oldest player at his position for the Cowboys. And well aware of it.

"I want to lead by example," Bryant said earlier in the offseason program that wrapped up Thursday. "I don't want to run my mouth."

He still has the occasional

Twitter spat, and isn't one to back down from verbal challenges. But he's no longer the precocious newcomer who talked back to Williams and started his career with a couple of bizarre off-field issues, sounding more like a dean these days instead.

"I think that it's just things that naturally happen over time," said Bryant, two years into a \$70 million, five-year contract that made him one of the highest-paid NFL receivers. "You just start putting things in perspective. I know for me is all I want to do is be better."

Bryant moved into the top five in tenure in part because of the departure of Tony Romo, the quarterback he credits for helping him

through the rocky start to a career that included lawsuits for unpaid jewelry bills and a sagging-pants episode with police at a Dallas mall. Bryant's bond was instant with Dak Prescott when last year's NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year replaced an injured Romo and ended up taking the 10-year starter's job with by far the best debut for a quarterback in franchise history.

Years later, Bryant reflected on his sparring with Williams by saying he didn't believe in what he considered meaningless rookie rituals. He's showing it too, instead creating a bond going into his ninth season with the most celebrated newcomer at receiver, Ryan Switzer.

TOP

From Page 28

Galarse backed up SSFM's guards as they teamed up for 23 more markers.

Barcinas and Palino anchored SSFM's strong showing in the second half, which started with the opposing teams in a deadlock, 37-37. They made 16 of the squad's 28 points in the third canto to hand

SSFM a double-digit spread, 65-54. SSFM then kept the upper hand in the fourth quarter with Palino and Barcinas still at it and drawing support from Ashburn and Galarse.

With the victory, SSFM set up a semis duel against Cuadro PS, while the other Final Four pairing had Ali'i Blue Haus meeting Arianne Fish Mart. The two semis games were played last night, but results

were unavailable at press time.

First Game

Ali'i Blue Haus 91 – Demapan 18, Esdrelon 14, Pag-arao 14, Talaria 11, Peredo 10, Barbo 7, De Dios 5, Guiab 4, Tumaquip 4, Berline 4.

United Ballers 70 – Ibag 19, Fabian 11, Atencio 10, Fernandez 8, Aldeguer 6, Marion 4, Sabiniano 4

Scoring by quarters: 31-19, 55-34,

Second Game

SSFM 80 – Barcinas 23, Palino 22, Ashburn 15, Leo Galarse 8, Libuw 4, Babauta 3, Santos 2, Pantaleon 2, Dancel 2.

JSN/Cell Pro 73 – Basa 21, Teregeyo 12, Andrew 10, Norita 9, Escano 8, Lisua 7, Lizama 5, Bisana 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-21, 37-37, 65-54, 80-73.

will also boost our chances in the girls U14," the CNMI coach said. "We will definitely go for our second straight championship in the POJC."

The CNMI Junior National Team won the most titles (4) in last year's POJC with Lee and Schorr claiming the 16-and-under and 14-and-under singles and doubles event. Lee's partner in the doubles was Isabel Heras, while Schorr teamed up with Song.

its final game of the season against Kanoa FC last Sunday. The two teams had identical 3-1-6 slates, but Paire/Hawaiian Rock won the tiebreak via goal difference, -3 to -24. Paire got 18 goals and allowed 21, while Kanoa collected 17, but yielded 41—the most this season. Sun Palace, which did not play several games in the closing stage of the division contest, had only one win to show and scored seven goals.

11

From Page 28

Saipan Tribune yesterday.

The long-time mentor and member of the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame was talking of Robbie Schorr, Carol Lee, Seung Jin Paik, Ji Min Woo, and siblings Conatsu and Coume Kaga, who are off-island either competing or training. Five of these players will also join the POJC, while

Lee may compete in the same event if her schedule permits.

"We won 74 percent of our matches and that's awesome. Maria played and won second place despite her injury (shoulder) and underhand serve. Michael upset last year's winner in the 16-and-under singles and Daniel Kang and Anthony Gregoire delivered in the tough super-tiebreaker game against Guam in the team event," Race added.

MPU

From Page 28

the 24th minute, finished the spring season with a 7-1-2 win-draw-loss record—the same mark the CNMI U16 Boys National Team gained. The deadlock had to be resolved via goal difference with MP United winning, 19-10. MP United scored 32 goals and gave up 13 in 10 games, while the Teen Ayuyus record-

ed 20 and yielded 10.

Adding his hat trick last Sunday, Mita earned nine in his M-League debut for the second best output this season. The Teen Ayuyus' Sunjoon Tenorio and Mita's teammate Kim also collected nine goals apiece, while TanHoldings' Sean Perez was the Golden Boot winner with his 12.

Perez made all three goals of TanHoldings in their loss to MP United. He drilled all

three in the opening half, posting his first in the ninth minute and the last two in the 11th and 29th minute.

Had TanHoldings won last Sunday's game, it would have claimed the Division A title. Instead, the team dropped to third place with its 7-0-3 record. The squad earned the most goals in the season with 33 and gave up 14.

Paire/Hawaiian Rock finished fourth despite forfeiting



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE					NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division					East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB					
New York	38	29	.567	—	Washington	42	27	.609	—
Boston	39	30	.565	—	New York	31	37	.456	10½
Tampa Bay	37	35	.514	3½	Atlanta	31	37	.456	10½
Baltimore	34	34	.500	4½	Miami	30	37	.448	11
Toronto	33	35	.485	5½	Philadelphia	22	46	.324	19½
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	36	31	.537	—	Milwaukee	38	33	.535	—
Minnesota	34	33	.507	2	Chicago	34	34	.500	2½
Kansas City	33	35	.485	3½	St. Louis	31	37	.456	5½
Detroit	32	36	.471	4½	Pittsburgh	31	38	.449	6
Chicago	31	37	.456	5½	Cincinnati	29	39	.426	7½
West Division					West Division				
Houston	46	24	.657	—	Colorado	46	26	.639	—
Texas	34	34	.500	11	Los Angeles	44	26	.629	1
Los Angeles	36	37	.493	11½	Arizona	44	26	.629	1
Seattle	34	37	.479	12½	San Diego	28	42	.400	17
Oakland	31	38	.449	14½	San Francisco	26	45	.366	19½

U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

FINAL ROUND					
Brooks Koepka (600), \$2,160,000	67-70-68-67	—272	Matthew Fitzpatrick, \$58,637	70-73-70-76	—289
Brian Harman (270), \$1,050,012	67-70-67-72	—276	Martin Kaymer, \$58,637	72-69-75-73	—289
Hideki Matsuyama (270), \$1,050,012	74-65-71-66	—276	Jordan Niebrugge, \$58,637	73-72-73-71	—289
Tommy Fleetwood, \$563,642	67-70-68-72	—277	Michael Putnam (20), \$58,637	73-70-71-75	—289
Rickie Fowler (110), \$420,334	65-73-68-72	—278	Webb Simpson (20), \$58,637	74-71-71-73	—289
Bill Haas (110), \$420,334	72-68-69-69	—278	Jordan Spieth (20), \$58,637	73-71-76-69	—289
Xander Schauffele (110), \$420,334	66-73-70-69	—278	Brandon Stone, \$58,637	70-74-72-73	—289
Charley Hoffman (94), \$336,106	70-70-68-71	—279	Rafa Cabrera Bello (14), \$44,975	72-73-71-74	—290
Trey Mullinax (82), \$279,524	71-72-69-68	—280	Andrew Johnston (14), \$44,975	69-73-73-75	—290
Brandt Snedeker (82), \$279,524	70-69-70-71	—280	Jack Maguire, \$44,975	70-73-71-76	—290
Justin Thomas (82), \$279,524	73-69-63-75	—280	Jonathan Randolph (14), \$44,975	71-71-73-75	—290
J.B. Holmes (72), \$235,757	69-69-72-71	—281	Stewart Cink (11), \$35,484	71-71-79-75	—291
Si Woo Kim (64), \$203,557	69-70-68-75	—282	Harris English (11), \$35,484	71-69-75-76	—291
Patrick Reed (64), \$203,557	68-75-65-74	—282	Satoshi Kodaira, \$35,484	73-69-73-76	—291
Brendan Steele (64), \$203,557	71-69-69-73	—282	Shane Lowry (11), \$35,484	71-74-73-73	—291
Matt Kuchar (55), \$156,809	72-71-69-71	—283	Branden Grace (9), \$28,895	72-72-71-77	—292
Eddie Pepperell, \$156,809	75-65-72-71	—283	Whee Kim (9), \$28,895	72-73-73-74	—292
Cheez Reavie (55), \$156,809	73-72-69-69	—283	Gary Woodland (9), \$28,895	71-74-72-77	—294
Steve Stricker (55), \$156,809	69-72-69-73	—283	Ryan Brehm (8), \$26,659	75-70-74-75	—294
Bernd Wiesberger, \$156,809	70-71-71-72	—284	Jason Kokrak (8), \$26,659	70-72-79-74	—295
Sergio Garcia (48), \$124,951	73-69-71-71	—284	Ernie Els (7), \$25,631	70-71-79-75	—295
David Lingmerth (48), \$124,951	74-70-70-71	—285	William McGirt (7), \$25,631	69-75-75-76	—295
Kevin Chappell (42), \$105,506	70-74-69-72	—285	Lee Westwood, \$25,631	71-71-75-79	—296
Jim Furyk (42), \$105,506	74-70-68-73	—285	Thomas Aiken, \$25,026	71-72-76-76	—296
Louis Oosthuizen (42), \$105,506	66-71-75-74	—286	Kevin Kisner (6), \$25,026	72-73-75-77	—297
Paul Casey (39), \$93,094	71-70-67-79	—287	Keegan Bradley (5), \$24,301	68-74-75-80	—297
Russell Henley (33), \$83,331	71-74-68-74	—287	Adam Hadwin (5), \$24,301	71-72-75-76	—297
Zach Johnson (33), \$83,331	68-72-72-75	—287	Stephan Jaeger, \$24,301	72-70-76-79	—297
Marc Leishman (33), \$83,331	69-69-74-75	—287	Yusaku Miyazato, \$24,301	72-72-80-75	—298
Jamie Lovemark (33), \$83,331	69-74-71-73	—287	Kevin Dougherty, \$23,696	73-72-81-81	—300
a-Scottie Scheffler, \$0	72-71-72-73	—288	Daniel Summerhays (5), \$23,454	74-71-76-80	—301
Martin Laird (27), \$72,420	68-76-73-71	—288	Talor Gooch, \$23,213	73-72-78-80	—303
Kevin Na (27), \$72,420	70-69-73-76	—288	Tyler Light, \$22,971	74-70-82-84	—310
a-Cameron Champ, \$0			Hao Tong Li, \$22,722		

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League Playoffs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



DYS Rollers' Matthew Ong, left, dribbles in front of a 670 Sonics/PHI defender during their semis game in the boys U15 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League held early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



A 670 Sonics/PHI player, center, is fouled by a DYS Rollers defender.



IT&E's Tawnie Manibusan, right, pulls up for an open shot during their girls U18 semis game against the Lady Knights.



IT&E's Gillian Villagomez, rights, throws up a shot, while the Lady Knights' Princess Alcantara looks on.



DYS Rollers' Sunjoon Tenorio leaps for the offensive rebound.



IT&E's Kye Tam, center, unloads a one-hander against two Lady Knights defenders.



DYS Rollers' J.P. Cruz drives against two 670 Sonics/PHI defenders.



The Ol'Aces' Chevy Kate Alipio escapes with a fastbreak layup during their semis match against the Junior Ol'Aces.

Long road: Koepka's journey now includes a US Open title

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Final registration for Tagaman today

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28 TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MPU tops Division A of M-League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club clinched the championship in Division A of the M-League after slipping past TanHoldings FC, 4-3, last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Michiteru Mita towed MP United to the important victory, as he made a hat trick in their last game in the shortened competition, including the go-ahead



five minutes before the one-hour match wrapped up. The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director's two other goals were



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Richard Steele is one of the 11 CNMI junior players who made the grade in last week's 2017 North Pacific Regional Championships held in Guam.

11 junior players make grade

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Eleven CNMI junior players earned entries to the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships after their notable performances in last week's 2017 North Pacific Regional Championships held in Guam.

Michael Ren, Malika Miyawaki, Sean Lee, Daniel Kang, and Anthony Gregoire gained slots on the North Pacific Team that will compete against the East and West squads in the POJC in Fiji in August for ruling their respective events. Also getting berths on the elite squad were Vincent Tudela, Ken Song, Grace Choi, Richard Steele, Maria Gregoire, and Hye Jin Elliot.

Ren and Miyawaki topped and boys and girls U16

singles event of last week's tournament, while Lee won the boys 14-and-under singles crown, and Kang and Anthony reigned supreme in the boys U12 event. Tudela and Song advanced to the semis of the 16-and-under singles, Choi and Maria were runners-up in the girls 16 under and 14-and-under divisions, Steele made it to the Final Four of the boys 14 and under singles, and Elliot finished second in the girls U12 team event.

"We got 11 of our players going to Fiji after completing last week's tournament in Guam. Our team did very well considering six of our top players missed the competition," said CNMI Junior National Team coach Jeff Race in an interview with

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United Football Club's Michiteru Mita, 33, collides with TanHoldings FC goalie John Bucayo, while James Ermitanio looks on during the second half of their Division A game in the M-League last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

recorded in the third minute and 51st.

Mita's second goal tied the match, 3-all, and he nailed it off MP United's third corner

kick attempt. For his third and game-winning goal, Mita soared for a kick and over TanHoldings goalkeeper John Bucayo. After the collision,

the ball dropped and rolled in, giving MP United the slim lead at the 55th minute mark. MP United went on to use the clock to protect its lead and

take the title-clinching win.

MP United, which drew one goal from Young Bin Kim in

See MPU on Page 26

Top 2 seeds deliver in playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Ali'i Blue Haus and SSFM lived up to high expectations after eliminating their playoff foes in the 2017 San Antonio Summer Basketball League last Friday night at the San Antonio court.

The top-ranked Ali'i Blue-Haus clobbered last qualifier United Ballers in the curtain-raiser, 91-70, while No. 2 seed SSFM outclassed No. 7 JSN/Cell Pro in the second match, 80-73, to join Arianne Fish Mart and Cuadro PS in the semifinals.

The regular season first place finisher Ali'i Blue Haus eased past United Ballers, as it dominated the playoff match right from the get-go. Brendon Talania scored 9 in the first quarter to power Ali'i Blue Haus to a 31-19 advantage at the end of that period.

Ali'i Blue Haus went on to

increase its lead in the succeeding frames, as the team had too many options on offense and the players' familiarity with each other's game gave the squad more open looks at the basket.

Bart Demapan top-scored for Ali'i Blue Haus with his 18 points, while four of his teammates also logged double figures. Elmer Esdrelon and Lerio Pagarao added 14 each and Talania and Errol Peredo contributed 11 and 10, respectively.

Rico Ibag led United Ballers with his 19 markers.

In the second game, the backcourt tandem of Dan Barcinas and Andrew Palino did most of the damage for SSFM as they combined for more than half of the squad's total points to beat JSN/Cell Pro. Barcinas registered 23 points, while Palino chipped in 22. Andrew Ashburn and Leo

See TOP on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SSFM's Andrew Palino, center, sneaks his way through the defense of JSN/Cell Pro's Preston Basa, left, during the first quarter of their playoff game in the San Antonio summer caging last Friday at the San Antonio court.